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South China Sea Workshop Held in Surabaya 23-25 Aug

Enters 'Difficult Waters'

BK2508155193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Surabaya, Indonesia, Aug 25 (AFP)—An informal workshop on the South China Sea entered difficult waters Wednesday as the sensitive issue of two disputed island chains threatened to hinder its progress. The question of the disputed Spratly and the Paracel islands, which has lurked close to the surface since the workshop opened Monday, came to the fore on the last day when several delegations suggested it be scrapped from the agenda altogether.

"I think that it will be better to delete it from the agenda because here we are just jointly exploring practical cooperation... it is not the right place to discuss those issues," said Chinese delegate Xu [name indistinct].

The officials and experts from 10 Asian countries taking part in the workshop—China, Laos, Vietnam, Taiwan and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) members Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—were attending in a purely personal capacity, officials here have stressed.

Xu's view was echoed by Taiwan's Fu Kuen-chen a member of the law faculty at Taiwan National University. "It is not the place to discuss sovereignty and politics, it is the place to discuss cooperation," Fu said.

Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping territorial claims over the Spratlys, a group of barren but strategically located islands stradling major international shipping lanes in the South China Sea. China and Vietnam both claim the Paracel islands northeast of the Spratlys. The seabed around both island chains is believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits.

The Spratly and Paracel dispute had earlier been scheduled for the first session of the day, but Lee Lai To of the Singapore National University said there was "some problem" and the discussions had been postponed until the second session. "Whether you should discuss it is already an issue... there are now suggestions as to whether it is wise to put it in," Lee said.

Hamzah Ahmad, Director General of the Malaysian Institute of Maritime Affairs, said he believed the disputes should be discussed. "Without the Spratlys, without the Paracels, there is no South China Sea," Ahmad said, adding that any effort to promote cooperation in the area "must therefore address these issues as well.

Statement Urges Restraint

BK2508154793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Surabaya, Indonesia, Aug 25 (AFP)—A three-day informal workshop on the South China Sea ended here Wednesday with a call for restraint in territorial disputes. "The workshop urged states to exercise restraint in order to create a positive atmosphere for the eventual resolution of all disputes," a statement said.

The Fourth Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea also called on countries involved in territorial disputes in the region to "resolve their disputes by peaceful means and not to use force or threats of force as a means to settle disputes." The statement said interested parties had the chance to express their views on territorial claims in the Spratly and the Paracel island groups but "no debate took place on this issue."

Conference Co-Chairman Hasyim Jalal of Indonesia told a press conference, "We did not give them an opportunity to debate the claim. We are here not to discuss, reject or approve the claims." At least one delegation wanted to delete the Spratlys and Paracels from the Wednesday agenda. "I think that it will be better to delete it from the agenda because here we are just jointly exploring the practical cooperation... it is not the right place to discuss those issues," said Xu Guangjian, China's Director General for Treaty and Law.

Taiwan's Fu Kuen Chen, from the law faculty of National Taiwan university, said the workshop was "not the place to discuss sovereignty and politics, it is the place to discuss cooperation." Lee Lai To of the Singapore National University said that even "whether you should discuss it is already an issue ..."

Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping territorial claims on the Spratlys, a group of barren islands straddling international shipping lanes in the South China Sea. China and Vietnam also claim the Paracel islands northeast of the Spratlys. The seabed around the Spratlys and the Paracels is believed to be rich in oil and natural gas deposits.

Officials and experts from 10 Asian states—the six claimant states together with Indonesia, Laos, Singapore and Thailand—took part in workshop in their "private capacities," the statement said. Hamzah Achmad, Director General of the Malaysian Institute of Maritime Affairs, said he believed the dispute should be discussed. "Without the Spratlys, without the Paracels, there is no South China Sea," Hamzah said, adding that any effort to promote cooperation in the area "must therefore address these issues as well."

Jalal said the meeting also discussed confidence-building measures aimed at preventing conflicting claims from worsening. He called for restraint in military as well as

non-miltary presence in the disputed areas and transparency in the region. He said the meeting had not reached a decision on whether to formalize the process of workshops into an inter-governmental one.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told the opening of the workshop that it was time to consider upgrading it to involve governments. "Others were of the view that formalization may be too early at this stage," the statement said. It agreed to invite Cambodia to next year s workshop and will also consider inviting non-South China Sea states to become involved in specific cooperation projects.

France Rejects South Pacific Plan on New Caledonia

BK1408033493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0321 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Nauru, Aug 14 (AFP)—A senior French diplomat Saturday flatly rejected a South Pacific Forum proposal to send a United Nations decolonisation inspection team to the French territory of New Caledonia. Presidential special ambassador to the South Pacific, Jacques Le Blanc, told AFP that such a proposal was simply not reasonable under the Matignon Accord, designed to take New Caledonia to a referendum on self-determination in 1998.

"There is a process now which has been agreed upon by the two sides in the Matignon agreements," Le Blanc said. "This process has been approved by the French parliament, has been endorsed by national referendum and everybody agrees this is the right way to solve the matter," he said. "So we don't accept any foreign interference, especially from the United Nations, since self determination is exactly what the United Nations is looking for. "So what do they want to know now?" he asked. "We don't accept that."

Earlier in the week the 15-member South Pacific Forum heard at its annual meeting a report from a specific forum committee of ministers from the Melanesian states of Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Nauru, which had visited the French territory. The Melanesian members of the Forum have been active supporters of the indigenous Kanak people in New Caledonia, who clashed with French settlers in the late 1980s over their demands for inependence.

The report says the Forum should encourage France to invite either the United Nations decolonisation committee or the U.N. secretary general to send a mission to New Caledonia, possibly in 1995. This would allow France to show it was genuine in its intentions to allow self-determination in New Caledonia by demonstrating "a firm commitment to decolonise the Kanaks".

The forum report refers to a new political grouping being formed by hardline independence activist Yann Celene Uregei as an example of disunity.

The delegation also noted wide disagreements over whether there should be attempts before 1998 to secure a negotiated settlement with anti-independence forces on the future political status of the territory's 150,000 people. They point to differences on this and other issues within the mainstream independence movement, the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

"This implies that all will not be smooth sailing until 1998," the report states. "The underlying conflicts and differences between the communities should not be underestimated," it says. "Rebalancing is still an enormous task, and there are concerns that the gaps are not being bridged fast enough." Earlier, forum spokesman Fiji Prime Minister Sitivini Rabuka said forum countries had been worried that Paris might attempt to divert their interest in New Caledonia by giving increased aid.

Japan

Hosokawa Denies Rift Over U.S. Security Pact

OW2608082493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Thursday [26 August] flatly denied allegations from the once-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that his seven-party coalition government is divided over Japan-U.S. security arrangements. Speaking in the House of Representatives chamber, Hosokawa, who heads the conservative Japan New Party, said his administration fully supports the mutual security treaty between the two countries.

His comment was in response to a suggestion from State Minister Kosuke Uehara of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] that the Japan-U.S. security treaty needs to be revised to reflect the changing "international situation." Uehara, director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, said in response to questions from LDP legislator Nobutaka Machimura that his native Okinawa Prefecture is still home to 75 percent of U.S. military installations in Japan.

Okinawa, Japan's southernmost prefecture, was the sole scene of ground battles between Japanese and U.S. troops in the closing days of World War II.

While grudgingly and implicitly acknowledging the role the security pact played in the Cold War era, Uehara criticized the LDP for "playing up the military aspect" of the arrangements. "I have no intention of dropping my political philosophy or belief" about the Japan-U.S. Mutual Security Treaty, he added.

The SDPJ had long opposed to the pact prior to it joining the coalition government which ended 38 years of rule by the conservative LDP.

Hosokawa told the plenary lower house session, "I believe (Uehara) will continue to operate as a member of the cabinet" despite his strong sentiment about the presence of foreign troops in Okinawa.

When LDP lawmaker Machimura took the podium for a second time to point out the alleged rift within the infant coalition government, Uehara shook his head indicating there is no division. Uehara, a former labor union leader, caused an uproar recently when he protested against the Defense Agency's plan to purchase two U.S.-made airborne electronic surveillance systems.

The lower house session was briefly interrupted over testimony by State Minister Sadao Yamahana, who responded to Machimura's questions as a cabinet member responsible for political reform and as SDPJ chairman.

Since the formation of the Hosokawa cabinet on August 9, the LDP has targeted its criticism on the SDPJ because of perceptions it shifted or softened its stance on political, foreign policy and economic issues to be part of the coalition. One of the issues is the SDPJ's long-standing opposition to nuclear power, and Machimura took up the matter in his questioning.

Satsuki Eda, director general of the Science and Technology Agency and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, said that nuclear power generates some 30 percent of the nation's energy needs and that the coalition government would ensure the safety of nuclear power plants.

During his morning testimony in the House of Councillors chamber, Hosokawa pledged that Japan will stimulate domestic demand, reduce red tape through deregulation measures and take other steps to shift priority to consumers.

Referring to the yen's surge in value against the U.S. dollar and other key foreign currencies, he said, "it is desirable (for exchange rates) to reflect the fundamentals" of the Japanese economy.

Owada Reportedly To Be Next Ambassador to U.S.

OW2508235093 Tokyo KYODO in English 2332 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Former Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada will succeed Takakazu Kuriyama as Japan's ambassador to the United States, the mass-circulation YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Thursday [26 August].

The YOMIURI quoted government sources as saying Owada will assume the Washington post as early as next June.

The newspaper also quoted a Foreign Ministry source as saying Owada is well-suited for the job, which involves handling what the official described as Japan's most important diplomatic relationship.

Owada, father of crown Princess Masako, resigned as the top Foreign Ministry bureaucrat August 1 and was replaced by Kunihiko Saito, who was promoted to the vice minister post from the position of deputy foreign minister for political affairs.

One of Owada's three daughters, who was formerly a career diplomat at the Foreign Ministry, married Crown Prince Naruhito in early June.

Slain Exchange Student's Parents Make Statement

OW2608020693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0107 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] San Francisco, Aug. 25 KYODO—The parents of Japanese student Masakazu Kuriyama who died after a

shooting in California said Wednesday [25 August] they pray no more young Japanese will be killed in the United States.

In a statement released by the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco shortly before they flew back to Japan with their son's ashes, Shoichi and Masako Kuriyama said it is "most grievous that Masakazu met his end in such a tragic way." "We pray that this shall never happen again."

Masakazu, 25, was rushed to hospital after he was found shot twice in the back of the head near a railroad station Friday in Concord, about 48 kilometers east of San Francisco. He died in hospital Saturday after doctors pronounced him brain dead and his parents allowed doctors to switch off a life support system.

In their statement, Kuriyama's parents said it was clear their son had enjoyed his stay in the U.S. "We appreciate all the many wonderful friends and acquaintances Masakazu had come to know in the year he spent in the United States," they said.

"In the few days we have stayed here, we came to know of his year filled with wonderful and meaningful encounters and experiences. As we return to Japan, we would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to all those who have given us so much help and support," it said.

Masakazu Kuriyama, from Tokyo, lived with a host family in Alamo, about 10 kilometers south of where he was found, and was studying English in Concord while working in San Francisco.

He was the second Japanese exchange student shot in the U.S. within a year. Last October, Yoshihiro Hattori, 16, was shot dead in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, after he was mistaken for an intruder while looking for a Halloween party.

Group Visits Graves on Habomai Isle 22 Aug

OW2208124293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Kushiro, Hokkaido, Aug. 22 KYODO—The year's first group of Japanese made a daylong trip Sunday [22 August] to visit the graves of their ancestors on Shibotsu Island, part of the Russian-held Habomai group of isles.

Officials said the group of 32 Japanese, including 23 former residents and relatives of Japanese deceased on the island, traveled to Shibotsu in a training ship. The officials said four more groups, totaling 143 Japanese, will travel to the Habomai group and the three other Russian-held islands of Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu for similar daylong trips in the next three weeks.

Many tradition-conscious Japanese visit their ancestors' graves during the summertime Buddhist Bon holiday period.

Hosokawa Sees Ties With PRC as 'Important'

OW2608113993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Japan's relations with China are as important as the ones with the United States and Tokyo will continue to further enhance the bilateral relations, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Thursday [26 August].

Hosokawa made the remark in a written interview with the PEOPLE'S DAILY [RENMIN RIBAO] and Radio Beijing, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said. The two Chinese news organizations said they want to know Hosokawa's view on the Japan-China ties because the Japanese premier mentioned Tokyo's relations with the U.S. and Russia but failed to refer to the ones with China at his inaugural news conference on August 10.

"The Japan-China relations are important bilateral ties to Japan, equaling the ones with the United States," Hosokawa said in his statement.

"To maintain and further promote the Japan-China ties is a tremendously crucial factor to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and in the whole world, and our basic policy of attaching importance to the Japan-China ties is unchanged."

With the year of 1992 marking the 20th anniversary of the normalization of relations between Tokyo and Beijing, Japan and China should foster their ties as more mature ones, Hosokawa said. Toward that end, Hosokawa said, Japan is ready to extend a helping hand to China to help the country step up its political and economic reform through its open-door policy.

The premier also said the two countries should cooperate with each other in tackling various global problems, such as arms control, disarmament and the environment.

Takemura: PRC Alleged Missile Sales Regrettable

OW2608085493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—China's alleged sales of M-11 missiles or parts to Pakistan would be "regrettable" if it is true, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Thursday [26 August] after the United States imposed sanctions against China.

Although the Japanese Government does not have enough knowledge about the incident, it would be regrettable if China sold missile technology to Pakistan in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the top government spokesman told a news conference.

On Wednesday, U.S. State Department Spokesman Michael McCurry said the U.S. will bar the export of

sensitive technology to China for two years, a move that is expected to cost U.S. companies 400-500 million dollars a year.

China pledged to abide by MTCR guidelines, aimed at curbing the spread of advanced missile technology. Chinese officials have repeatedly denied that Beijing sold M-11 missile technology to Pakistan.

Beijing's arms sales was one area that U.S. President Bill Clinton said he wanted to see improvements [in] before Washington renews China's most-favored-nation trading status in 1994.

"We want both the U.S. and China to cope with the issue from a long-term perspective and in a cool-headed and realistic fashion," Takemura said.

Government Deports 298 Chinese Illegal Immigrants

OW2408095393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0925 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Nagasaki, Aug. 24 KYODO—Immigration authorities on Tuesday [24 August] deported 298 illegal Chinese immigrants, including 145 arrested in one batch in April, officials said.

The detainees were being held at the Omura detention center about 20 kilometers northeast of Nagasaki. The group included 67 chinese who were picked up in Shima, Mie Prefecture, in November, and 57 who landed in Okinawa in May.

UN Subcommission Studies 'Comfort Women' Issue

OW2608003993 Tokyo KYODO in English 2324 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25 KYODO—A U.N. Subcommission Wednesday [25 August] appointed an American human rights expert to study and report on wartime forced labor and forced prostitution, U.N. officials said. The U.N. Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities appointed Linda Chavez to the job.

A resolution adopted by the subcommission requests that the special researcher "undertake an in-depth study on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime, including internal conflicts."

Chavez is expected to investigate the use of forced labor and the "comfort women" by Japan before and during World War II and human rights violations in civil-war stricken Bosnia-Hercegovina, the officials said.

Chavez has been charged to include "relevant facts, legal analysis, conclusions and recommendations" concerning the compensation and social rehabilitation of the victims, in the study.

Historians estimate some 100,000 to 200,000 comfort women were sent to front-line brothels to provide sex to soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army. The women were procured in several Asian countries but most came from the Korean peninsula then under Japan's colonial rule.

The resolution requests that preliminary results of the study be submitted to the subcommission and to the working group on contemporary forms of slavery at their next session in April and has asked for the final report to be presented within two years, the officials said. It also urges U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to grant Chavez all assistance necessary to carry out her work.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights has discussed the comfort women issue several times in the past.

During the current session of the commission, Japanese officials made a detailed report about a recent government survey based on interviews with former Korean comfort women. In the report, Japan confirmed that some women were recruited by force.

The Japanese officials also expressed remorse over the issue and offered an apology.

The subcommission left it to Chavez to decide to what degree the comfort women issue will feature in the study, the U.N. officials said. It has not yet been decided if the subcommission will include interviews with former comfort women in the study.

Business 'Generally' Welcomes Hosokawa Speech

OW2308114193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 23 KYODO—Japanese business leaders generally welcomed the inaugural policy speech given by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Monday [23 August] but with reservations about his stance on tackling the recession.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said he sympathizes with Hosokawa's willingness to reconstruct Japan, while Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren) expressed similar views. But Hiraiwa, referring to the vulnerable economic conditions, said he strongly requests the administration to take flexible measures on the understanding that the situation is serious.

Nagano regretted that there was no mention in the speech of concrete stimulation proposals such as tax reduction and cutting interest rates.

Hosokawa on Stabilized Foreign Exchange Market

OW2608065393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa expressed hope in the Diet Thursday [26 August] that the foreign exchange market will stabilize with the value of currencies reflecting economic fundamentals in respective countries.

The Group of Seven industrialized nations share a view that their currencies should reflect the fundamental economic factors in their countries, he told the House of Representatives. His remark indicated the group's policy coordination framework remains intact despite the recent steep appreciation of the Japanese yen against major currencies.

Hosokawa Reconfirms Constitutionality of SDF

OW2608081693 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0305 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Report on Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa answering questions at a session of the House of Councillors in Tokyo on 26 August—from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Liberal Democratic Party member Mr. Juro Saito pointed out that opinion among the coalition groups was divided on the issue of the Self-Defense Forces, with some maintaining they were constitutional and others rejecting that view.

Hosokawa replied: The ruling groups have differing views, but the Constitution does not prevent Japan from maintaining its intrinsic right to self-defense. And we are not prohibited from possessing the minimum self-defense strength necessary to enable us to enforce that self-defense right. There has been no change to the original idea that the SDF can possess the minimum self-defense capability necessary and that it is not unconstitutional.

His comments showed that, as far as basic policies are concerned, he will continue the policies of previous governments.

Hosokowa Denies Charges Regarding Antigraft Bill

OW2608101793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Thursday [26 August] rejected opposition charges his coalition government is diverting public attention from antigraft legislation to electoral system changes.

"I nave not stated that I will place priority on electoral system reform. The electoral reform, however, is closely linked to legislation to deter political corruption," he said in a House of Representatives' plenary session.

Hosokawa also flatly dismissed opposition charges his cabinet has a covert plan to amend Article 9 of the Constitution banning the use of force to settle international disputes. "Because there is no public backing for any plan to amend Article 9, I am not considering placing a constitutional amendment on the political agenda," he said.

Hosokawa made the remarks in response to questions from Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa.

Fuwa criticized the government for trying to convince the public that a proposed system of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation for the lower house to replace multiseat districts could help stamp out corruption.

Hosokawa rejected Fuwa's criticism, saying the multiseat system has fostered bribery scandals by encouraging politicians to raise large amounts of campa gn funds.

Under the system, candidates from the same party compete against each other, prompting them to spend lavishly to curry favors with their constituents, he said

"As various bribery scandals have had their root causes in political donations from businesses, and as I am determined to move to ban such donations, my administration will be able to meet your party's expectations substantially."

Hosokawa reiterated his resolve to implement political reform, saying he would step down if it cannot be achieved this year.

Fielding questions from opposition legislators in the House of Councillors in the morning and the lower house in the afternoon, Hosokawa denied the seven-party coalition government is "irresponsible." "Japan's politics entered a mature age of democracy where a flexible and realistic approach to policies is possible," Hosokawa said during the morning parliamentary session.

He also denied allegations from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that his new government is divided over Japan-U.S. security arrangements.

His comment was in response to a suggestion from State Minister Kosuke Uehara of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] that the Japan-U.S. Mutual Security Treaty needs to be revised to reflect the changing "international situation."

Uehara, an Okinawa native who is director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, told the lower house Japan's southernmost prefecture is still home to 75 percent of U.S. military installations in Japan.

Uehara said despite the reversion of Okinawa from U.S. control in 1972, the daily lives of Okinawans are still troubled by the presence of the military bases.

The prime minister also said his government will make efforts to reduce external trade surpluses, a constant cause of friction with Japan's major trading partners. He said government ministries and agencies are now studying deregulation measures and a related package will be ready by mid-September.

The government is under pressure from Japanese industry to lift or ease bureaucratic red tape in numerous areas, including taxi fares, communications services and liquor retailing.

The mid-September timetable is crucial because it comes after the first Japan-U.S. subcabinet meeting on an economic framework agreed in July. It also comes before Hosokawa's first summit in New York with President Bill Clinton.

It is not clear whether, or how fast, the cabinet, made up of legislators with diverse backgrounds, can change the LDP-instituted policies which critics say place business interests ahead of those of consumers.

Denies 'Irresponsible' Claim

OW2608050893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0448 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa brushed aside suggestions Thursday [26 August] that the seven-party coalition government is an "irresponsible" government which has shelved its individual parties' own basic policies.

Hosokawa said the new government is making use of each parties' special characteristics, adding that the individual parties had maintained their established objectives while making some concessions on various policy issues, to achieve a broad consensus that can facilitate the functioning of government.

"Japan's politics entered a mature age of democracy where a flexible and realistic approach to policies is possible," he said in response to questions from Juro Saito of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the House of Councillors.

Hosokawa reiterated his resolve to implement political reform, saying he will step down if this cannot be achieved within the year.

He said Japan will make efforts to reduce external surpluses, a constant source of friction with its major trading partners, by taking measures that place the priority on consumers, such as stimulating domestic demand and reducing red tape. He said government ministries and agencies are now studying deregulation measures and will come up with a related package by mid-September.

The Hosokawa government is under pressure from Japanese industry to lift, or ease, bureaucratic red tape in numerous areas, including taxi fares, new communications services and liquor retailing.

But he stopped short of commenting on the yen's recent surge in value against the U.S. dollar and other foreign currencies. He only said, "it is desirable (for exchange rates) to reflect the fundamentals" of the Japanese economy.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai told the upper house session that the new government will draw up a new domestic stimulus package as early as mid-September.

The mid-September timetable is crucial because it comes after the first Japan-U.S. subcabinet meeting in Washington on a new economic framework agreed in July. It also comes before Hosokawa's first summit meeting in New York with President Bill Clinton.

Hosokawa said maintaining the bilateral security pact and implementing the new economic framework are important in upholding close ties with the U.S.

Concerning Russia, the prime minister said Japan's priority is to normalize relations with Moscow by concluding a bilateral peace treaty, following the desired return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido. He said Japan will provide an "appropriate" amount of aid to Russia to support its internal reforms.

He reiterated that Tokyo plans to play an active role in strengthening the functions of the United Nations.

MITI Minister Kumagai vowed that the new government would aggressively go after violators of the nation's anti-monopoly law.

It is not clear whether, or how fast, the coalition cabinet, made up of legislators with diverse backgrounds, can change the LDP-instituted policies which critics say place business interests ahead of those of consumers.

Despite a series of investigations which have unearthed bid-rigging and bribery scandals in recent months, Kumagai said the Fair Trade Commission considered these to be just the tip of an iceberg.

Comments on Other Issues

OW2608040093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pledged Thursday [26 August] Japan will stimulate domestic demand, reduce red tape through deregulation measures and take other steps to shift priority to consumers.

In testimony before the plenary session of the House of Councillors, Hosokawa said his seven-party coalition

government is committed to whittling down Japan's external surpluses, a constant source of friction with its major trading partners.

But he stopped short of commenting on the yen's recent surge in value against the U.S. dollar and other foreign currencies. He only said, "it is desirable (for exchange rates) to reflect the fundamentals" of the Japanese economy.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai told the upper house session that the new government will draw up a new domestic stimulus package as early as mid-September.

The mid-September timetable is crucial because it comes after the first Japan-U.S. subcabinet meeting in Washington on a new economic framework and before Hosokawa's first summit meeting in New York with President Bill Clinton.

Hosokawa, in response to questions from Juro Saito of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said his government will adopt "policies which attach importance to consumers."

These policies will include measures to stimulate domestic demand and cut regulations, he said without elaboration.

Hosokawa acknowledged that the new government, which ended the LDP's 38-year reign over Japanese politics, is aware of foreign criticism that the Japanese market is still closed to imports.

The Hosokawa government is under pressure from Japanese industry to lift or ease bureaucratic red tape in numerous areas, including taxi fares, new communications services and liquor retailing.

Thursday's upper house session followed a faceoff Wednesday between Hosokawa and LDP President Yohei Kono, who expressed misgivings concerning a drive within the seven-party coalition to elevate Japan to the status of a "mini superpower" through more active Japanese participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

MITI Minister Kumagai vowed that the new government would aggressively oppose violators of the nation's antimonopoly law.

It is not clear whether or how fast the coalition cabinet, made up of legislators with diverse backgrounds, can change the LDP- instituted policies which critics say place business interests ahead of those of consumers.

Despite a series of investigations which have unearthed bid- rigging and bribery scandals in recent months, Kumagai said the Fair Trade Commission considered these to be just the tip of the iceberg.

On foreign policy, Prime Minister Hosokawa was noncommital about Clinton's proposal for a new Pacific security framework. He said Tokyo will, however "actively participate" in the wider framework led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

He reiterated that the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is "essential for the world's peace and prosperity."

He said the resolution of a territorial dispute and the signing of a bilateral peace treaty represent his government's "top priority" concerning its policy toward Russia.

Hosokawa said Japan supports reforms in Russia and plans to provide Moscow with an "appropriate" amount of aid.

Coalition 'Closer' to Agreement on Reform

OW2608003793 Tokyo KYODO in English 2344 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—Five parliamentary groups within the coalition government are coming closer to agreeing on a proposal to revamp the electoral process of the powerful House of Representatives, officials of the parties said Wednesday [25 August].

The system of choice is expected to consist of a combined 250 single-seat constituencies and 250 seats through proportional representation, the officials said.

The five groups—Sakigake (Harbinger) and the Japan New Party (JNP), the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)—are also hammering out a unified proposal on how votes will be cast.

The parties are likely to propose that two votes be cast—one for a candidate in the voter's single-seat constituency and another for a political party through proportional representation.

The coalition government is made up of seven parties—the SDP, Komeito, Shinseito, the JNP, Sakigake, the DSP and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP)—under the leadership of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Sakigake and the JNP earlier set up a joint parliamentary group to strengthen their position in the Diet.

The five groups agreed Wednesday on a total of 500 seats for the House of Representatives that would consist of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation, the officials said. The lower house has now a total of 511 seats.

On proportional representation, the parties agreed that an Election Administration Committee distribute seats to political parties in proportion to the amount of votes garnered by each party, the officials said.

Although officials said a unified agreement was nearing, Komeito and Shinseito—an LDP breakaway—earlier gave support to a system that would consist of 300

single-seat district seats and 200 seats selected through proportional representation.

Under their proposed system, voters would cast one vote in their single-seat constituencies which would also be counted as a vote for their candidate's party in determining the proportional representation makeup.

Shinseito and Komeito, the second and third largest parties in the coalition, respectively, favor the formula because such a system would open the way for the establishment of a two-party system.

The DSP also backs the 300-200 system, but supports a system whereby two votes are cast.

For their part, the JNP and its ally Sakigake, another LDP breakaway, have proposed a system of 250 single-seat districts and 250 seats through proportional representation. The SDP also backs the proposal.

Meanwhile, the parties remain divided over an immediate ban on corporate' donations to politicians and they are expected to meet again to decide on the matter, the party officials said.

Prime Minister Hosokawa has hinted he will resign his post if he fails to push through sweeping electoral reforms in the Diet by the end of this year to clean up Japan's corrupt political system.

Independent Fujii Wins Sendai Mayoral Race

OW2208124093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] Sendai, Aug. 22 KYODO—Former Sendai Education Superintendent Hajimu Fujii, running as independent on a platform of clean governance, won Sunday's [22 August] mayoral race to succeed Toru Ishii who resigned in July over a bribery scandal.

Fujii, 62, beat business executive Hatao Suzuki, 52, who was backed by communists, and lawyer Yasuo Teshigawara, 67, who was supported by social democrats.

Sendai, the capital city of Miyagi Prefecture, was rocked in June by the arrest of then Mayor Ishii, a former central government bureaucrat, on suspicion of taking 100 million yen in bribes from four major construction companies.

Hiraiwa Appointment to Panel Gets Mixed Reaction

OW2508150293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 25 KYODO—Business leaders showed mixed reaction Wednesday [25 August] to reports that Gaishi Hiraiwa, head of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), will head a new government panel assigned to draw up a report on economic restructuring.

Keidanren officials said Hiraiwa has reluctantly accepted the role after repeated requests by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. It is surprising that Hiraiwa accepted the post even before the composition of the council has been made, one senior businessman said.

Hiraiwa might have accepted the new post because he intends to strengthen the relationship between the new coalition government and the business community, a Keidanren executive said.

Hiraiwa was quoted as telling his associates he will make an effort to come up with recommendations quickly.

Ministry Official Rejects Income Tax Cut

OW2608085693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0838 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—A top Finance Ministry official voiced a strong opposition Thursday [26 August] to introducing an income tax cut financed by the issuing of deficit-covering government bonds.

"It's rather natural for an income tax cut to be discussed as one of the options in economic measures...But we must avoid issuing deficit-covering bonds," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity. His remarks followed a decision at a meeting of five major ruling parties for further discussion of the tax issue to find common ground as they were divided on the proposed cut.

Those who favor a cut should study the records on the "evils" of deficit-covering bonds—"not only that such bonds leave burdens for the next generation but also that they require inflation to be cleared," he said. He was primarily referring to the "bubble" economy of asset inflation in the late 1980's that helped Japan clear a deficit.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is well aware of that fact, he said, referring to Hosokawa's tough stance at the Diet on avoiding issuance of such bonds.

The official also brushed aside the possibility of cutting income tax on expected revenue from later hikes in other taxes. This method was taken to finance Japan's international contribution during the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Agency Reports Local Economies Remain Stagnant

OW2608085793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—Local economies remain stagnant as personal consumption and housing investment continue to be flagging across the nation, the Economic Planning Agency reported Thursday [26 August].

The agency, in a report on trends of regional economies, said some bright signs of recovery noticed in some areas, including Hokkaido, have come to a standstill again. The

report said sales at department stores across the nation remained sluggish while sales of automobiles declined from the year-before level.

Housing starts and demand for houses for sale or rent were particularly stagnant in Kyushu and Okinawa, it said.

Industrial production dipped from the year-before level, with the year-on-year fall exceptionally large in urban areas such as Kanto, Kinki and Tokai, the report said.

It said the unusually cool summer, coupled with a long rainy spell, dealt a blow to farm, dairy and fisheries industries, while the yen's appreciation caused damage to export-oriented enterprises in the Tohoku north-eastern region of the country.

Environment Agency Plans Red Tide Measures

OW2608101193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—The Environment Agency will create guidelines limiting the amount of effluent from factories and sewage disposal plants in an attempt to halt fish kills in bays and inland seas, agency officials said Thursday [26 August].

The guidelines will control the volume of nitrogen and phosphorus, now being dumped into Tokyo Bay, Seto inland sea in western Japan and 86 other inland seas and bays insulated from ocean waters, the officials said.

The two elements in question contribute greatly to "red tides," a condition where tiny phytoplankton multiply quickly on the water's surface. The water will usually appear reddish-brown and the supply of oxygen available for sea creatures is diminished, generally leading to large fish kills in infected areas.

In many western countries, the ceiling for nitrogen in effluent is less than 120 milligrams per liter and phosphorus is limited to less than 16 milligrams per liter, the officials said. Japan has no set ceilings.

The agency will draft separate comprehensive guidelines for each of the 88 bays and seas in order to improve the quality of the water. The agency guidelines will take effect October 1, the officials said.

The guidelines on effluent will apply to about 20,000 factories and sewage disposal plants dumping more than 50 tons of effluent into bays and seas, the officials said. About 2,000 of the facilities must meet the effluent standard by five years after the guidelines take effect.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry Announces Talks With IAEA

SK2608105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 26 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today answered a question put by KCNA concerning negotiations to be held soon between delegations of the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

He said:

"Negotiations between the DPRK and the IAEA will be held soon in Pyongyang.

"The negotiations have been arranged according to the agreement reached between the DPRK and the United States at the Geneva talks to discuss mainly the problem of the partiality of the IAEA.

"The negotiations will provide an opportunity of proving the unreasonable behavior of the IAEA toward the DPRK in the past and correcting it.

"So, the DPRK will concentrate at the negotiations on the solution of the partiality of the IAEA, one of the causes of the complication of the nuclear problem today.

"We hope that the IAEA will think and act in a more reasonable way in keeping with the changed situation.

"The IAEA must approach the negotiations with a sincere attitude, aware of the nature of the negotiations.

"If the IAEA resort to its past wrong stand, the problem would be made more complicate.

"Then, we will count what we suffered from its unjustifiable behavior and the IAEA will have to bear responsibility for the consequences arising from that."

KCNA Views Committee To Protect ROK Soldiers

SK2608110593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 26 (KCNA)—A measure committee for supporting soldiers and combat police who made declarations of conscience was inaugurated in Seoul, a South Korean newspaper reported.

The organization declared that "it will conduct brisk activities for the restoration of the rights of the soldiers and combat policemen who issued declarations of conscience and for the democratisation of the Army".

In recent years, many puppet Army soldiers and combat policemen of South Korea exposed to the world the anti-popular, anti-national crimes of the military fascists through their declarations of conscience, and they became targets of suppression by the authorities.

The committee was formed with a view to supporting their just action and protecting them from suppression.

South Minister's Visit to Island Denounced

SK2508145693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1153 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Yun Pyong-son commentary: "Rash Act by Someone Seized With War Fever"]

[Text] According to a report, on 23 August, South Korean puppet Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, along with fellows like the Air Force chief of staff and the Marine commandant, came all the way to Paengnyong Island, south of the Maritime Demarcation Line. He inspected the emergency mobilization posture of the armed gangsters mobilized for the Ulchi Focus Lens-93 war exercise and inspired war fever for northward invasion. This exactly shows how frantically the South puppets are maneuvering to wage a war of northward invasion.

As we all know, the provocative Ulchi Focus Lens-93 joint nuclear war exercise, which began on 17 August, is being conducted in South Korea in an extremely hazardous stage. Numerous armed forces and operational equipment are being continuously transported to South Korea aboard large transporters from bases in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific.

In the sky over South Korea, hundreds of military aircraft of various types a day are almost daily conducting joint air strike exercises and mass bombing exercises by simulating preemptive strikes against objects on the inland of the northern half of the Republic.

On the ground, the puppet infantry units, assisted by tanks, armored cars, and fighters, are conducting an exercise for northward aggression by simulating the penetration of the Military Demarcation Line and an attack operation exercise involving commandos.

In the sea, under the command of the Blue Ridge, a warship that commands landing force, sea attack and landing exercises are being conducted. At such a time, Kwon Yong-hae, a warlord [jonjaeng udumori], appeared in Paengnyong Island, overlooking the northern half, and inspired war fever. This is a rash act that only a man who is crazy about provoking war can conduct.

The South Korean authorities describe the Ulchi Focus Lens-93 war exercise as a map exercise. This is mere sophism designed to mislead the public opinion and distract people's attention elsewhere.

Massive aggression forces are conducting this exercise on land and sea and in the air while firing guns and cannon just like they are waging an actual warfare. How can this be a map exercise?

In view of the massive troops, the ultramodern war materiels, and the contents of this war exercise, the Ulchi Focus Lens-93 war exercise is a very dangerous preliminary war and test nuclear war designed to examine and complete the comprehensive operational plan to launch preemptive strikes at the northern half of the Republic. No sophism by those scoundrels can conceal the dangerous and aggressive nature of this exercise.

Moreover, what cannot be forgiven is the fact that the South Korean authorities, even while talking about dialogue, are conducting a war exercise against us, their dialogue partner, in collusion with outside force, prowling about sites of war exercises where the smell of powder is reeking; and inspiring war fever.

Dialogue is incompatible with war exercises. To hold dialogue, they must first throw away their hidden daggers to ensure that they are trusted by their dialogue partner.

They are sharpening swords, on one hand, to wage an aggression war designed to harm their fellow countrymen and babbling about dialogue, on the other. This is the mockery and defilement of their dialogue partner.

The South Korean authorities are talking about dialogue. However, they have no intention to hold dialogue but are only seeking to provoke a war of northward invasion with outside force.

If it had not been true, how could they have turned a deaf ear to our peace proposals, brought in numerous outside forces, and started a war exercise for aggression?

Because of the Ulchi Focus Lens-93 war exercise which the South Korean authorities started with outside force, an acute, touch-and-go situation has been promoted on the Korean peninsula, and the cause of peace and reunification has been gravely threatened.

The South Korean rulers run counter to the fellow countrymen's earnest desire for peaceful reunification by bringing in the clouds of nuclear war. This antinational crime cannot be tolerated.

As long as such warmongers as Kwon Yong-hae live in the nation, one cannot expect national unity or peaceful reunification of the country. Those fellows must be removed from the nation.

What the South Korean authorities can get from confrontation and war is destruction. The South Korean authorities had better cool their heads heated with war fever and act with discretion.

Daily Views South's Defense Minister's Comments

SK2608054893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Ill-Boding Outcries of 'Civilian' Warhawks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 26 (KCNA)—Kwon Yong-hae, "Defense Minister" of South Korea, accompanied by the "Airforce chief of staff," the "Marines commander" and other brasshats, recently inspected Paengnyong island where Ulchi Focus Lens military exercises were underway. There, he incited war fever, saying "the North must be watched closely."

It is very ill-boding that South Korean warhawks cried for an "emergency mobilization posture" and "watch," wielding the stick of nuclear war under the eyes of the North, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst continues:

The frantic Ulchi Focus Lens joint military exercises of the U.S. Forces and the puppet army in South Korea are very dangerous nuclear war maneuvers to make a forestalling attack on the northern half of Korea like the Team Spirit joint military exercises.

The outcries of the traitorous group of South Korea for "close watch" revealed its sinister intention to aggravate the atmosphere of confrontation and ignite a war by inventing some pretext.

We are watching with vigilance the reckless acts of the "civilian" warhawks.

The war-thirsty elements must not act rashly.

Pyongyang Resumes Accepting Japanese Visitors

OW2608004693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0016 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO—North Korea has resumed allowing visitors into the country after a two-and-a-half-month suspension of all such contact with the outside, pro-Pyongyang sources in Tokyo said Thursday [26 August].

Members of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), a pro-Pyongyang organization, said the cargo and passenger ship Mangyongbong left Niigata for Wonsan on the North Korean east coast August 19 with a tour group of 197 people.

The ship is also scheduled to carry 200 more passengers to North Korea from Niigata on August 28.

All charter flights and passenger voyages between Japan and North Korea had been halted since late May. The Mangyongbong plied the Niigata-Wonsan route with loads of cargo only during the period.

Ministry Holds Party on Anniversary of Egypt Ties

SK2608053093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 26 (KCNA) - The Foreign Ministry arranged a cocktail party on August 25 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Egyptian Ambassador to Korea 'Ali Hijazi and his embassy officials were invited to the party.

Present there were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and officials concerned.

Speeches were made at the cocktail party which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Daily Urges Nation's Unity for Reunification

SK2608100993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0022 GMT 26 Aug 93

[NODONG SINMUN 26 August special article: "The Road of National Reunification Lies in Great National Unity"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: To achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country it is imperative for the whole nation to achieve great unity. Those who are concerned about the nation's destiny should unite as one nation, transcending all differences, regardless of whether they are in the North, the South, or overseas and whether they are communists, nationalists, proletarians, bourgeois, theists, or atheists, and should open the road of national reunification together.

Today, all compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas are vigorously launching into the road of national unity and reunification, upholding the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation set forth by the great leader. The Fourth Pannational Rally held recently in Pyongyang, Seoul, and Tokyo clearly showed once again the fellow countrymen's ardent desire to achieve the country's reunification through great unity of the whole nation in the North, the South, and overseas.

What is more important than anything else in achieving national reunification is to achieve genuine reconciliation and great unity of the whole nation. The question of our country's reunification is the question of linking again the nation's severed bloodline and achieving national reconciliation. It is also the question of achieving the nation's sovereignty throughout the country. The main force of national reunification is precisely all of the Korean nation.

To perform its responsibility and role as the main force of national reunification our nation should firmly unite as one. The whole nation should firmly unite to strengthen the main force of reunification. Herein lies the decisive guarantee for national reunification. Great national unity is the basic prerequisite of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and constitutes its primary content.

The Korean people should, first of all, firmly unite as one nation, transcending all differences, regardless of whether they are in the North, the South, or overseas and whether they are communists, nationalists, proletarians, bourgeois, theists, or atheists, in order to open the road of national reunification together.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and the lodestar of national reunification, prepared and declared last April the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation for national reunification and, thus, elucidated again a guideline for great national unity before the whole nation. The 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation is a great charter of national unity and reunification elucidating a most correct way which makes it possible to save the difficult situation lying before the nation with the nation's independent strength and to achieve the country's peace and reunification. It is also a great political program which makes it possible to put an end to the distrust and confrontation within the nation and, thus, to achieve the whole nation's genuine reconciliation and wide and great unity.

All of the fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas should firmly unite as one nation by transcending all differences in political groups, organizations, political views, and religions under the noble ideal of the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation. They should also make contributions to achieving the country's reunification and the grandeur and prosperity of a reunified country in accordance with the specific circumstances and conditions of their own strength, knowledge, and property.

Our party and the government of the republic are making all possible efforts to uphold the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation and to achieve its lofty ideal.

We proposed that the North and the South exchange special envoys to discuss urgent issues, including the nuclear issue between the North and the South. We have made all sincere efforts to hold the Fourth Pannational Rally as a national common festival. This proceeds from our patriotic and nation-loving mind to expedite national reunification, the long-cherished desire of the nation, by removing the deep-rooted confrontation between the North and the South and by achieving national reconciliation and unity.

Because of the South Korean authorities' unjust maneuvers, obstacles have been laid to the fellow countrymen's constant desire for great national unity and national reunification.

The current South Korean rulers have brought to the fore the signboards of the civilian-controlled regime, advertised national superiority, and babbled as if they were interested in reconciliation and unity with the same fellow countrymen in the North.

However, their activities have been quite to the contrary. As it was exposed, the South Korean rulers have turned their back on the same fellow countrymen who desire reconciliation and unity. Rather, they have taken the road to undermine the fellow countrymen in collaboration with aggressive foreign forces. With the U.S. President's visit to South Korea as an occasion, the South Korean ruler demanded that the U.S. Forces be constantly maintained in South Korea, while babbling about the theory of security by depending upon the United States. This bespeaks that the South Korean rulers turn their back on the same fellow countrymen and take the road to undermine the fellow countrymen.

In addition, the South Korean rulers have babbled about the nonexistent suspicion of the North's nuclear development. They are busy going around the international arena, while raving that chastisement and sanctions should be imposed on the same fellow countrymen. This is aimed not at independently resolving the issue concerning the nation in unity with the same fellow countrymen but at obtaining something by maintaining foreign forces in South Korea and by hitting the back of the same fellow countrymen through collaboration with foreign forces.

The South Korean rulers have maintained the remnants of antiquated confrontation with an evil law such as the National Security Law and a fascist suppressive organization such as the Agency for the National Security Planning. They have rashly suppressed at the point of bayonets the righteous activities of youths, students, and people, who desire the great national unity and national reunification.

The South Korean rulers recently prevented the Fourth Pannational Rally from being held as the festival for national unity and reunification on 15 August. When the South side's officials of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon] proposed that the Fourth Pannational Rally be held in Seoul, the South Korean rulers talked about someone's behind-the-scenes manipulation, branded the pannational rally as illegal, and regarded the organizations related with the Pomminnyon as illegal organizations befitting the enemy. The South Korean rulers raved that they would thoroughly prevent the pannational rally from being held.

The South Korean rulers foiled the tripartite working-level talks for successfully holding the rally. They blocked our side's delegates, who went to Panmunjom, from going to the South to attend the pannational rally. Rather, they deployed a large number of suppressive armed forces around Yonsei University and Hanyang University where the pannational rally would be held. They high-handedly maneuvered to foil the pannational rally.

By so doing, the South Korean rulers revealed of their own accord that they have not a bit of will for realizing the national reconciliation and unity and for achieving national reunification. In addition, the South Korean

rulers are conducting with the United States the large-scale Ulchi Focus Lens nuclear war exercise against the same fellow countrymen beginning on 17 August. They are spreading the belief that they have decided to conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year.

All the maneuvers of the South Korean rulers are antinational and antireunification crimes to persistently block the fellow countrymen's grand march for national unity and reunification and to seek confrontation and war. The entire nation and history will never tolerate their maneuvers.

Confrontation and division are the road leading to the ruin of the nation; unity and reunification is the road for the nation to live. Thus, our fellow countrymen in the North, South, and overseas who held the Fourth Pannational Rally in Pyongyang, Seoul, and Japan, shouted for the great national unity and reunification, and denounced the South Korean traitorous rulers for objecting to the great national unity and reunification.

Upholding the 10-Point Program of Great Unity of the Whole Nation for Reunification of the Country put forth by the great leader, the entire fellow countrymen in the North, South, and overseas should more vigorously struggle to achieve reunification in the nineties through the great national unity, by smashing the maneuvers of splittists within and without at every step.

Papers Dedicate Editorials to SKNDF Anniversary

SK2508123093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 25 Aug 93

["Hanminjon's Cause of National Independence is Invincible"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 25 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate editorial articles to the 24th founding anniversary of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon).

The founding of the revolutionary party for reunification, the predecessor of Hanminjon, on August 25, 1985, was a precious fruition of the hard struggle of the South Korean champions of social change for the building of a chuche-based vanguard party and an event of epochal significance in the struggle of the South Korean popular masses for freedom and liberation, NODONG SINMUN says, and goes on:

The South Korean patriotic people of various social strata who waged the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in the '60s and the '70s renamed the party the South Korean National Democratic Front on July 27, 1985, in keeping with the rapidly changing situation and the requirement of its development in the '80s and set a new programme and fighting goal.

With the founding of Hanminjon, an organization representing the will and aspiration of the South Korean people, they came to have a true mass vanguard which is able to bring the noble cause of independence, democracy and reunification to a final victory.

The 24 years covered by Hanminjon were proud years in which it has developed to be an invincible organization that achieved its unity in one thought and one purpose on the basis of the immortal chuche idea and to be a resilient organization that has struck deep roots among the masses and strengthened international solidarity. Its history is also a course of a proud struggle in which Hanminjon has courageously paved the way of the rigorous anti-U.S. movement for independence and reunification.

In this course, many champions of social change and core elements of the new generation who have grasped the truth of the chuche idea as their faith have been produced and the patriotic, democratic forces have grown stronger.

To reunify the divided country is the supreme task of the nation, the solution of which brooks not a moment's delay.

It is only too natural that the South Korean people of all walks of life are now staunchly struggling to put an end to the U.S. occupation of South Korea and its colonial rule, get the U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons out of South Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

For the independent and peaceful [words indistinct] of the country, it is imperative to achieve great unity of the whole nation and vigorously make a nationwide march toward reunification. All the patriotic, democratic forces of South Korea which love the country and the nation and hope for national reunification must unite as one on the basis of the idea of the nation for peace, reunification and patriotism and the organizations struggling for the country's reunification, too, must cooperate and unite with each other.

All the anti-reunification fascist laws such as the "National Security Law" and repressive tools must be abolished, Hanminjon and all other patriotic political parties and social organisations be legalized and free political activities be guaranteed to individuals.

The just cause of Hanminjon and the South Korean people who are dynamically advancing along the road of independence, democracy and reunification and struggling to found a neutral pan-national unified state will surely emerge victorious.

MINJU CHOSON says that the struggle of Hanminjon and the South Korean people to accomplish the cause of national independence along the road of independence, democracy and reunification is just and nothing can block their onward movement.

Kim Chong-il Urges Acceleration of Post, Telecoms

SK2608054193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 26 (KCNA)—"Let us more energetically accelerate the modernisation of post and telecommunications", a letter sent by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the participants in the national meeting of post and telecommunications workers, was conveyed at the meeting which opened here Wednesday.

Comrade Kim Chong-il in his historical letter reviewed the achievements made in the domain of post and telecommunications through vigorous endeavours to implement the party's policy on it in the past and indicated tasks to further strengthen and develop this work to suit the requirement of the developing reality and ways for their materialisation.

Noting that the first task of socialist post and telecommunications is to reliably guarantee the command communications for the monolithic leadership of the party and the leader and an important task is also to devotedly serve the people, the dear leader in his letter expounded the requirement of the activities of socialist post and telecommunications for improving their service and culture and fully ensure promptness, accuracy and secret [as received].

The letter gives a comprehensive exposition of the tasks facing post and telecommunications at the present time including those to powerfully step up the modernisation of post and telecommunications in compliance with the demand of the party's policy of making revolution in post and telecommunications, increase state investment in it and actively help it through a social movement and strengthen the party's guidance of it and ways for their implementation.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Workers, Press

SK2608052393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 26 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to press organs, journalists and men of the press and their families who distinguished themselves in agitation for increased coal production.

The journalists and men of the press have contributed to increasing coal production through their publication and propaganda activities at more than 50 coal mines across the country including the Anju District coal mining complex.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's thanks also went to officials and performers of a true story-telling stage of participants in the fatherland liberation war.

The veterans contributed through the stage to educating the party members and other working people, the rising generation in particular, in a revolutionary way and arousing them to defend and further exalt the Korean-style socialism.

He also extended thanks to the party members and working people in Anju city and shock brigade members who participated in the construction of Anju-Sinanju trolley bus line in South Pyongan Province.

KCNA Reports Construction Activity at Shipyards

SK2508011393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 24 (KCNA)—A brisk campaign is going on at the shipyards of Korea to create the "speed of the general march of our-style socialism", thus making it possible to complete the building of large-size cargo vessels, fishing boats and oil prospecting vessels within this month.

The Hambuk Shipbuilding Complex launched a 14,000-ton cargo vessel in February and is now building another one. Its hull construction has been completed and the assembling of engine, electric and pipe systems and installation of wooden fittings are at the final stage.

The Wonsan shipyard will build cargo vessels and fishing boats for export within this month.

It has completed the building of a large oil prospecting vessel in the main and made a big progress in the building of a scientific research ship intended for the study of seabed.

The Nampo Shipbuilding Complex is repairing large-size cargo ships on a floating dock while hastening the building of a 3,750-ton fishing boat to complete it next month.

Yonggwang-Sasu Railway Line Electrified

SK2608001793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 25 (KCNA)—The Yonggwang-Sasu railway line has been switched over to electric traction and opened to traffic in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

With the electrification of the more than 80 kilometre long line from Yonggwang, Yonggwang county, South Hamgyong Province, to Sasu, Changjin county of the Province, the transport capacity of this section has been markedly increased and the convenience of the people in their travel improved.

The builders have completed the electrification of the line under unfavorable topographic conditions in one year or more.

A meeting took place at Yonggwang railway station Tuesday to convey a congratulatory message of the

Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the workers and officials of the general bureau of eastern railways and three-revolution team members who carried out the project and open the line to traffic.

KCNA Reviews 26 Aug Pyongyang Press

SK2608061893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 26 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Zoran Lilic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on the occasion of his birthday.

Printed in the press are a letter to the great leader President Kim Il-song from the participants in the 6th Venezuelan national seminar on the chuche idea and an account of the seminar.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a report that "With the Century", reminiscences of President Kim Il-song, was disseminated and studied in different countries.

An article of the daily says President Kim Il-song called at the Changgol area of Sinhung County, South Hamgyong Province, during the anti-Japanese armed struggle and led the struggle to accelerate the historical cause of the liberation of the country by strengthening the driving force of the revolution.

It is reported in the press that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the party members, working people and shock brigaders in Anju city who took part in the construction of the Anju-Sinanju trolley bus line and an account of its opening to traffic.

Papers report that Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a historical letter to the participants in the national meeting of post and telecommunications workers which opened in Pyongyang on August 25 and give an account of the opening of the meeting.

Given in the press is an account of a meeting held on the lapse of 20 years since Comrade Kim Chong-il gave on-the-spot guidance to Sunchon City.

NODONG SINMUN rounds up words of foreigners who visited the international friendship exhibition.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an article headlined "Guidance of the Leader Is Decisive Factor of Solidness and Vitality of Socialist Power".

Econews of the press includes reports about the endeavours of working people in the mining, transport and construction fields.

Introduced in the press are beautiful deeds of working people across the country who are actively assisting the People's Army with sincerity.

Papers inform the readers that incarnation of faith and will Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, visited the Mt. Paektu area.

NODONG SINMUN reports that South Korean people actively support the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and carries an article stressing that the way for national reunification lies in great national unity.

South Korean people of broad circles branded the present "regime" as a "civilian fascist regime" and more than 400 inhabitants in Kyonggi Province of South Korea protested against the U.S. pressure for opening the rice market, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary denounces the South Korean "defence minister" for whipping up war fever while inspecting the Paengnyong Island in which the "Ulchi Focus Lens" war exercises were under way.

Papers inform the readers of the adoption of a DPRK-U.S. agreement on the question of remains of U.S. soldiers.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the chairman of the Nepal Workers-Peasants Party praised the Korean people who are building socialism under the guidance of two great leaders.

Malian and Guinean organisations actively favoured the DPRK-U.S. talks, says the press.

According to the press, Son Sann, president of the National Constituent Assembly of Cambodia, declared that Cambodia will not follow great powers and the Zambian president rejected multi-party "democracy".

An article of NODONG SINMUN deals with the abnormal weather in different areas of the world.

South Korea

IAEA, DPRK To Resume Nuclear Talks in Pyongyang

SK2508124293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1226 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Paris, Aug. 25 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and North Korea had agreed to resume talks on matters related to the nuclear safeguards agreement in Pyongyang on Aug. 31, the IAEA reported on Wednesday. An IAEA spokesman said there is no way to tell how long the Pyongyang meeting would last because it would depend on its progress.

But, some press reports here, quoting an official at the North Korean mission in Vienna, said the talks in Pyongyang would continue until Sept. 4. A five-member IAEA delegation is expected to leave Vienna around Aug. 29 arriving in Pyongyang on Aug. 31.

The spokesman said that North Korea has not responded to the IAEA suggestion that a second-round meeting take place in Vienna should there arise the need of further talks after the Pyongyang negotiations. The resumed talks between the IAEA and North Korea are taking place under an agreement reached at the second-round high-level talks held between the United States and North Korea in Geneva on last July 19.

IAEA Team To Include Many Experts

SK2508235193 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 25 Aug 93

[By correspondent Cha Man-sun in Vienna]

[Text] An International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] negotiation delegation, slated to visit North Korea on 31 August, comprises nuclear inspection experts, lawyers specializing in nuclear-related issues, and policy experts. This delegation will negotiate with North Korea in a flexible but tough manner.

The negotiation delegation will be headed by Deputy Secretary General (Fallow), the IAEA's second highest official, who is responsible for inspection affairs. The team includes one inspection specialist, two experts in nuclear legal and policy matters, and one inspection administration specialist. The IAEA notified North Korea of the list yesterday.

The IAEA organized the delegation by selecting experts in various fields of nuclear inspection. This was done to head off mistakes and to create a team that could promptly and flexibly cope with any technological, policy, or legal problems that might come up during negotiations.

The deputy secretary general and head of the IAEA negotiation delegation majored in nuclear physics and nuclear engineering. He is from Switzerland and has been a nuclear specialist for 30 years. He took responsibility for nuclear inspection affairs last April and is dynamically promoting international inspection affairs. He is also very familiar with international politics.

DPRK Envoy Discusses Nuclear Issue, 'Food Riots'

SK2608015893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Bangkok, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea is the cause of nuclear problems on the Korean peninsula, North Korean Ambassador to Thailand Yi To-sop said Wednesday. "North Korea doesn't need any nuclear weapons, cannot afford to make them and hasn't even thought about having them," Yi told the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand. "What caused some nuclear problems on the Korean peninsula is the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea."

Answering questions at the first press conference given here by a North Korean official, Yi denied reports that several military officers were executed last year after a failed coup d'etat. "That's nothing but a rumor. Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il (the North Korean president and his son) are leading the North Korean people very well."

He also denied reports of food riots in North Korea due to the serious lack of food. "I do not say the North Korean people live in clover, but they do not worry about food at least. [sentence as received] I read a story about North Korea's lack of food on Bangkok's English-language paper this morning. That's totally different from the truth," he said. On North Korea's relations with China, he said that the normalization of diplomatic relations between South Korea and China had not affected them.

"South Korea-China relations are the issue of the countries themselves. They have nothing to do with North Korea-China relations," Yi said. He called Kim Il-song a great leader and Kim Chong-il a practical leader. "The North Korean people unanimously support Kim Chong-il as a practical leader. He leads the people very well, with much experience. You can say that if you go to Pyongyang and see the situation."

Minister Addresses DPRK Nuclear Issue in Speech

SK2608051593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0321 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, declaring that the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue is essential for peace and order in Asia, urged the international community Thursday to work together for it. The resultion [as received] of the nuclear question ultimately means North Korea's participation in the efforts of the regional and world communities to maintain order, he said.

Han spoke at a breakfast meeting at a downtown Seoul hotel sponsored by the Korean Association of International Politics. "The South Korean Government will support for North Korea's participation in international order, not its isolation," Han said. [sentence as received] "The government wishes that North Korea wipe out suspicion over its development of nuclear weapons and take part in efforts to establish the regional peace and economic order," he said.

When one considers mutual economic dependency in the Asia and Pacific region, it is desirable to maintain an overall economic system and regional cooperation has to be realized based on "the principle of liberalization of the region," he said. Han noted that with changing security situation in Asia and Pacific, the question on the need for multilateral cooperation to supplement bilateral relations has been raised.

Such multilateral dialogue has begun at the post-ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It would be further enlarged next year into the ASEAN regional cooperation with participation of China, Vietnam and Russia, he said.

South Korea would actively participate in multilateral security dialogue, Han said, while planning to propose a system of Northeast Asian multilateral security cooperation that help build mutual trust and curb military buildup. South Korea has conducted its diplomacy centered on the confrontation between the South and the North, he said. But with the advent of "internationalism" and the civilian government, the nation should start paying attention to freedom, sense of justice, peace and welfare of the people, Han said.

DPRK 'Diplomats' in PRC Caught Converting Money

SK2608004993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0005 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Beijing, Aug. 25 (YONHAP)—Two men thought to be North Korean diplomats were taken into custody by plain-clothed Chinese Security Officers on Monday when they tried to convert some U.S. dollars into the Chinese currency on the black market near Guomao Hotel, according to witnesses. They said that they believed the men were North Korean Embassy officials because they came in a black car with the license plate "Beijing 134shi 0072," and "134shi" is the number assigned to the North Korean Embassy.

Four Chinese Security Officials swooped on them at the moment the two men were about to exchange their dollars for 300,000 yuan (about 45 million South Korean won), the witnesses said. The North Koreans showed confusion and produced identification cards, but the Chinese officials ignored them and took them away, they said. It is believed that the North Korean officials were trying to cover the expenses of their embassy by converting money through the black market. Meanwhile, it is said that a North Korean who had escaped his country recently entered a restaurant run by the North Korean Government, mistakenly believing it to be owned by a Korean-Chinese, and was taken away by two North Korean Embassy officials.

DPRK Cancels International Sports Participation

SK2508121893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1110 GMT 25 Aug 93

[From the "Sports Plaza" program]

[Excerpt] [First correspondent] North Korea has repeatedly canceled its applications to participate in international sports events. This makes us wonder if something may be happening in North Korea.

The DPRK had applied for the summer Universiade Games but canceled later. The North Koreans also had applied to participate in the 1993 International Wrestling Match to be held in Toronto, Canada from 25 August, but canceled again.

[Second correspondent] In addition, North Korea also canceled its plan to hold the 1993 Pyongyang International Table Tennis Championships scheduled for August. North Korea is frequently breaking its promises in the international sports arena. Could it be that North Korea's sports activities are being damaged by its internal and external political problems? I hope this is not the case. [passage omitted]

Seoul, Moscow Seek 'Full-Fledged' Military Ties

SK2608091293 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 26 Aug 93 p 5

[Article by Yi Kon-yong: "Impact of Full-fledged ROK-Russia Military Cooperation"]

[Text] ROK-Russia military exchange will be enhanced in a full-fledged manner with the exchange visit of Russian and ROK Naval ships and the visit to Russia of Yi Yang-ho, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

These military exchanges are based on the ROK-Russia Memorandum of Understanding on Military Exchanges for 1993 signed by the defense ministers of the two countries last November, and are expected to contribute significantly to forming a substantial basis for future ROK-Russia military cooperation.

Explaining the background for the signing of the memorandum, the Defense Ministry stated: "The memorandum is deemed necessary to positively cope with the changes in the security situation surrounding the Korean peninsula and to build and develop the basis for military relations between the two countries, to deter war, and secure peace on the Korean peninsula on a long-term basis."

Up to now, the level of bilateral military exchanges still remain at a primary stage, however, there is a consensus of opinion among military experts that rapid development in relations may take place in conformity with changes in the climate of security surrounding the Korean peninsula.

International relations in Northeast Asia had so far been basically composed of two structures confronting each other: on the one side, the ROK-U.S.-Japan alliance, with the United States playing the key role; and the Russia-China-North Korea communist alliance on the other. However, such structures are now faced with a major change due to the practical interests related to national security of the countries concerned.

The ROK-Russia military exchange is likely to have a positive effect in the practical security interest of both countries. Russia can use a ROK card to check Japan, which appears to intend to become a major military power, and China, which is trying to expand its force

eastward by building up its Pacific fleet. The ROK, for its part, can use a Russian card to curb the North Korean nuclear development and its southward provocation.

The memorandum on military cooperation includes not only the exchange of military personnel and Naval ships, but also bilateral observation of the military educational systems. Accordingly, both sides have already exchanged military education observation teams.

Gen. (Shane Varos Petrovich), deputy president of the Russian Military Academy of the General Staff, made a six-day visit to the ROK and inspected the National Defense Ministry and its military education facilities, thus deepening military understanding.

In particular, the visit to Russia by Yi Yang-ho, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who holds the right of commanding the ROK Armed Forces, can be regarded as having symbolic significance in that the two countries are now ending hostile military relations. It has been learned that the two countries are pushing ahead with a plan to invite a Russian Defense Ministry delegation to a ceremony to commemorate the ROK Armed Forces day. This, too, will further lay the foundation for creating mutual trust in the military field.

The Defense Ministry added that there will be no change whatsoever in our relations with the allied countries, such as the United States and Japan, despite the progress made in the ROK-Russia military exchange.

The United States, which has already signed a memorandum of understanding on military cooperation with Russia in the nineties and which regards Russia as a partner, has not made any objection to the ROK-Russia military exchange. Japan, however, maintains a continuous vigilance at heart on the developments. Therefore, the ROK should make diplomatic efforts to persuade Japan in the process since the activation of the ROK-Russia military exchange might touch off the advancement of the Japanese moves to become a major military power.

Seoul To Resume Fishing in Okhotsk Sea Mid-Sep

SK2608045393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] Korea plans to resume fishing in the Okhotsk Sea after mid-September despite the Russian ban on all fishing activities there, government officials here said yesterday. The National Fisheries Administration (NFA) said the Korean government has notified Moscow that it is inevitable for Korean vessels to resume fishing in the Okhotsk because they will have used up all fishing quotas in the West Bering Sea by mid-September.

"If Russia does not offer us an additional fishing quota in other economic zones, we have no choice but to proceed with fishing in the Okhotsk Sea," said an NFA official in charge of deep-sea fisheries industry. The Korean government is waiting for a Russian reply to the latest notification, said the official, adding that he expects that there will be bilateral discussions on the matter soon.

NFA officials said catches by Korean vessels operating in the West Bering Sea are likely to amount to 60,000 tons by mid-September. Korea's fishing quota in the area is 70,000 tons. After that time, fishing in the area will be difficult because of bad weather and dispersion of fish schools, the officials said.

"We will have no choice but to either move to other economic zones after gaining an additional quota from the Russian government or go into the Okhotsk Sea," said the deep-sea fisheries official. Seoul and Moscow had agreed early this year to set the Korean fishing quota in the Russian economic waters at 155,400 tons, but the accord has been stalled because of the two sides' difference in catching fees, including the Russian demand for advance payment.

The dispute over fishing in the Okhotsk Sea, which is technically international waters, was touched off in April when the Russian Parliament, citing depletion of fish stocks, imposed a unilateral fishing moratorium on the area. Korea has voluntarily suspended fishing in the area since April 25. Korea used to catch 110,000-300,000 tons of pollack in the Okhotsk Sea each year, which met half the domestic demand.

Korea, while protesting over the unilateral decision along with China and Poland, offered to cut back on their catches by 25 percent in a multilateral talks in June. The Russian government, however, did not agree to the proposal and insisted on a complete moratorium. The issue became a diplomatic concern between Seoul and Moscow, with the presidents of the two countries exchanging letters supporting each other's position.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a letter to Korean President Kim Yong-sam June 29, in which he asked Kim to participate in the moratorium until multilateral negotiations come up with measures for protecting fish stocks in the Okhotsk Sea. Yeltsin then noted that the drain in fish stocks has become a political problem for his government because of growing discontent among Russian fishermen, Korean officials said.

Kim, in a reply to Yeltsin last month, reaffirmed the Korean position that the issue should be settled through a joint scientific investigation into the fish stocks among concerned countries. The Korean president also asked the Russian president to allow partial resumption of Korean fishing in the area, citing the financial difficulties faced by the Korean fisheries industry.

PRC Envoy Views Diplomatic Ties Anniversary

SK2508140393 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 25 Aug 93 p 7

[Article by Pak Yun-sok on interview with Zhang Tingyan, PRC ambassador to the ROK, in Seoul on 24 August]

[Text] The Chinese Embassy in the ROK was quiet on 24 August greeting the first anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the ROK and China. In the Chinese Embassy in Myong-tong, Seoul, everything looked calm and quiet except the singing of a late summer cicada. Two large satellite antennae bearing the letters "The Chinese Academy of Science" attracted my sight.

There was no special event marking the first anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The main official event Chinese Ambassador to the ROK Zhang Tingyan (57) attended was the breakfast meeting sponsored by the nongovernmental Korea-China Friendship Society on the morning of 24 August where he made a speech.

However, Ambassador Zhang is one of the busiest ambassadors of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

"We will open our consulate general in Pusan early this September. An advance party has arrived there and is making preparations, and Consul General Jiang Zhengcai will assume office on 26 August," said Ambassador Zhang.

With quite a few pending issues awaiting specific solution following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Ambassador Zhang has many government officials he has to meet. He has a continuous list of civilian figures from economic and cultural fields who would like to meet him.

"The last year of PRC-ROK relations has been the period of building confidence at a new level. There has been considerable success in this area. As for economic relations, bilateral trade is expected to reach $10 billion by the end of this year," Ambassador Zhang said.

He described the first year since the establishment of ROK-PRC diplomatic relations as successful. As for such pending issues as the aviation agreement and the agreement for prevention of double taxation, he said, "It is natural that there should be some pending issues between the two countries on which they share different views, but at present we have no big obstacle."

As for the issue of returning the remains of more Korean patriots in addition to the returning of the remains of five leading officials of the Korean provisional government, Ambassador Zhang said optimistically, "If this question is officially raised, the two sides will be able to settle the issue smoothly through discussion."

When the topic shifted to the problems related to North Korea, Ambassador Zhang obviously took extra care to be precise in his comment.

He said, "Our government's position toward the North Korean nuclear issue is firm. Our government supports the stability in the situation on the Korean peninsula and its denuclearization. Our government has made constructive efforts with continuous interest for the settlement of the nuclear issue. We will continue our efforts for the successful negotiation of this issue."

Ambassador Zhang was deputy director of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry when he was appointed as Chinese ambassador to the ROK. He served three times in North Korea for a total of 15 years as a secretary, a counselor, and deputy ambassador of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang until 1989. This explains why he is knowledgeable about North Korea.

"I have good knowledge of the North Korean people, from the lower to the upper echelon. By the way, I have a feeling that the report here about the deterioration of the North Korea economy is somewhat exaggerated, judging from what I saw with my own eyes until 1989 and what I have heard since then," he said.

Touching on the Taiwan issue, Ambassador Zhang was emphatic in his words. He said, "No country that has diplomatic relations with China should have official relations with Taiwan. It can have relations on a civilian level, but nothing more than that. This was agreed upon between the two countries in the negotiations for the establishment of PRC-ROK diplomatic relations." He stressed again that the Chinese position on this issue is clear and that China hopes that this will be adhered to in the future.

When the reporter asked him if it was because the Chinese Embassy was conscious of North Korea and Taiwan that the embassy did not hold the meeting to commemorate the first anniversary of the ROK-PRC diplomatic relations, he said, "Both embassies in Beijing and Seoul agreed not to hold commemorative meetings."

Ambassador Zhang's ability to speak Korean was quite good. The Korean language Ambassador Zhang studied as a major subject in Beijing University which he graduated from in 1958 and practiced in North Korea for 15 years is not the "Pyongyang accent" which the Chinese speak in most cases. He speaks Korean with a usage and intonation close to the standard Korean language which many Korean people in the North and the South are not able to do. The interview was held without an interpreter.

On the controversy over the Chinese intervention in the Korean war, he said, "One ought to ponder whether or not debating the historical event all over again would hamper the development of the countries concerned."

As to China's domestic situation, he stressed that the rumor about Deng Xiaoping's serious illness is groundless and that Premier Li Peng is recovering from illness. He said that General Secretary Jiang Zemin is not planning an overseas trip this year.

Ambassador Zhang said, "I think the policy put forth by President Kim Yong-sam for the creation of a new Korea, including the anti-corruption drive, is in the right direction. I also think that the policy is attaining considerable success. The Chinese policy of reform and openness, which Comrade Deng Xiaoping initiated and has been implemented for 15 years, will continue after his death as well without failure, because the policy conforms to the reality."

He said with a smile that there will also be brisk exchanges between the two countries in the latter half of the year, such as the ROK foreign minister's visit and the ROK parliamentary delegation's visit to China, making it a busy year in the relations between the two countries.

Ministry Announces Seoul Visit by U.S.'s Gallucci

SK2608105593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1037 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, is set to visit Seoul on Sept. 9, the Foreign Ministry reported on Thursday. A ministry official said Gallucci will stay in Seoul for two days conferring with senior officials of the Foreign and Unification Ministries. They are expected to adjust the policy stands of the two countries ahead of third-round U.S.-North Korea nuclear talks.

Gallucci was the chief U.S. negotiator at the U.S.-North Korea high-level talks over the nuclear issue. "Mr. Gallucci will meet with relevant government officials to discuss a future strategy of the two countries over North Korea's nuclear issues based on the outcome of the planned talks between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and North Korea," the official said. He denied, however, that Gallucci's visit is related directly to the third-round U.S.-North Korea talks.

'Excessive' Chemicals Detected in U.S. Beans

SK2608084893 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 26 Aug 93 p 22

[Text] Excessive "(Chiophadate) Methyl"—the main substance contained in agricultural chemicals used to disinfect rice seed—has been detected in imported beans.

On 25 August, the Taegu Bean Sprout Association (Chairman: Song Chi-ho) said that the association asked on 3 July that the Taegu Health and Environment Research Institute analyze residual substances of agricultural chemicals contained in the U.S.-produced beans, which were directly distributed by the Agricultural and Fishery Products Distribution Corporation last June. The association added that as a result, 4.115 PPM of (Chiophadate) Methyl was detected in this bean, exceeding the allowable standard of 4 PPM.

The corporation supplied a total of 21 tonnes of bean directly to the association last June. Some 110 bean sprout growers are growing bean sprout using this bean and are selling it.

In the meantime, the Taegu District Prosecution Office took into custody on 19 August seven bean sprout growers, including Representative Pak Tong-song of the Chinyong Bean Sprout Company, on charge of violating the Foodstuffs Health Law. They sold in the market 150 to 500 kg of bean sprout which contains 11 to 35 PPM of (Chiophadate). It was reported that these growers had grown bean sprout using the U.S.-produced bean seed.

Former Presidents Respond to Audit Questionnaire

No Tae-u 'Not To Answer' Questions

SK2608043193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Former President No Tae-u said Thursday he has decided not to answer the Board of Audit and Inspection's [BAI] questionnaire because it would set an undesirable precedent for the legal practices and the execution of the constitution. The BAI had been awaiting the former president's reply to its questions in connection with some possible irregularities in the Yulgok military buildup project, especially in the No administration's decision to swtich the nation's next generation of fighter aircraft from McDonnell Douglas's F/A-18s to General Dynamics' F-16s.

In a statement issued by Former Chief Presidential Secretary Chong Hae-chang, No said the nation, which chose to have the presidential form of government, bestows rights to make all national policy decisions and a high degree of discretionary power along with all the responsibility for them. Under the law governing the Board of Audit and Inspection, presidential duties are not subject to BAI investigation, No said.

It is not proper for the BAI, which comes under the jurisdiction of the president, to investigate presidential decisions on matters directly involved in national security, it said. If the BAI is allowed to do so, it could be a burden on the president's decision-making processes, No added.

With regard to the fighter aircraft, No said the decision was made for the interest of the nation after thorough consultations with ministries concerned and fair and just evaulation. "There could not be an iota of suspicion," No said. "And the responsibility for the decision rests with me alone." No attached a nine-page supplementary paper on the process of selecting the fighter plane.

Commenting on the arrest and prosecution of some officials of his administration on charges of irregularities and other wrongdoing, No apologized to the people and said he was ashamed because they had resulted from his lack of virtue. The selection of the F-16 was the best choice in view of the nation's financial ability and expenses. He pointed out that the F-16 is the mainstay fighter aicraft for the U.S. Air Force and many other advanced nations and that it did a great job during the Gulf war. From the point of view of the national interest, the choice of F-16s was a correct decision, No said.

Prior to the announcement by Chong Thursday morning, No sent an aide and his papers to BAI Chairman Yi Hoe-chang. At a question and answer session with reporters following the release of statement, Chong said he did not believe the BAI would leval charges against No.

Chong refused to discuss the details of the BAI questionnaire, saying that it was the BAI that had asked not to make it public because of national security considerations. Asked if No and his aides had discussed with Former President Chon Tu-hwan the BAI's investigation. Chong said aides from both sides had exchanged opinions as BAI probes are a precedent-setting action.

Chon Tu-hwan Answers Questions

SK2608044693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—Former President Chon Tu-hwan justified his decision to build the peace dam to counter the possibility of a water attack by North Korea in a letter to the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) on Thursday. In the letter, made public by Chon's secretary Min Chong-ki, Chon said it was highly possible that North Korea was building the Mt. Kumgang Dam for military purposes and that he could not be a passive onlooker in a situation in which intentional destruction or accidental collapse of the dam would cause tremendous damage in the Han River valley.

Chon wrote: "They (North Koreans) said they were building the dam for electric power generation, but the power generation cost at this dam was then estimated to be three to four times higher than the costs at their other hydroelectric and thermal power stations. "To build this dam that has no economic value in the rugged mountains, they mobilized tens of thousands of troops of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces. This led me to conclude that they were building the dam for military purpose, and that it would pose a threat of water attack.

"I understood that the initial estimate of 20 billion tons for the Mt. Kumgang Dam's capacity was a maximum figure determined on the basis of the geographical data on the area, and I received a report that the estimate was in agreement with the estimates made by foreign research organizations. "The government then tried to check North Korea's Mt. Kumgang Dam construction project through friendly nations and UN agencies, such as the World Large Dam Association, but North Korea pushed ahead with the project. Under the circumstances, I had no choice but to build a counter dam."

Also in the letter, which was in response to the questionnaire the BAI sent to him, Chon said that he could not officially reply to all of the questions. His counselors had advised him that the BAI's auditing of a former president regarding the background and justification of a policy decision was "problematic in view of the provisions of article 97 of the Constitution and article 24 of the Board of Audit and Inspection Law," Chon wrote. "And there were many people who had expressed a view that such an auditing is not desirable in the development of constitutional government," he said.

Statements Draw 'Negative' Reactions

SK2608102693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0912 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—The statements of former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u refusing to cooperate with the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) or answer questions about the peace dam and the Air Force's next-generation fighter program Thursday elicited no-comments and wait-and-sees from the government, and negative reactions from opposition politicians and the public. "No comment," said presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae, refusing to answer a barrage of questions from the press about the statements when he emerged from a meeting of senior presidential secretaries presided over by Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong in the morning. "No comment," he continued to say even to questions asking if there was any change in Chongwadae's [presidential offices] position of leaving judgement of the two former presidents to historians and asking what was the reason for his monotonous reply.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) had a wait-and-see reaction. Emerging from a staff meeting presided over by DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil in the morning, deputy party spokesman Cho Yong-chik said the DLP would observe the development of the situation and watch the reaction of the BAI before making an official comment.

Delicate differences were evident in the reactions of the three factions of the ruling party: The democratic justice and republican factions supported the two former presidents, while President Kim Yong-sam's democratic faction showed a negative reaction. Some members of the democratic justice and republican factions said they felt it was too much for the BAI to question Chon and No regarding "scandals." Others even called BAI Chairman Yi Hoe-chang "a man of petty heroism."

But members of the democratic faction were critical of the way the former two presidents responded to the BAI questionnaires and their statements, saying there was no problem with the BAI asking a former president about his policy decisions. In particular, No's statement

refusing to answer the questions was of no help in clearing the suspicion over the change to F-16 from F/A-18 as the next-generation fighter, one of them said. A source close to Kim Chong-pil worried that the situation would develop from the confrontation between the BAI and the two former presidents to between Chongwadae and the two former presidents.

The public generally took a dim view of Chon's and No's responses. Lawyer Choe Tok-pin, 69, said they should have told the people everything they knew about the problems shrouded by suspicion even though the decisions regarding the problems were acts of state.

Bank employee Cha Min-sok, 31, said he was disappointed at the insincere responses to the BAI questionnaires. Their refusal to answer the BAI questions ignored the people, he said.

Student Chon Ki-song, 21, said their statements failed to clear the people's suspicions about the two big scandalous cases of the fifth and sixth republics. They should have brought to light the truth about the cases for the sake of national interest, he added.

Merchant Pak Yong-kil, 53, expressed his dissatisfaction with the two statements, saying his expectation of their clearing up suspicion was not met by their explanations of what they did. They should have met the people's need to know how much was spent on the construction of the peace dam and in buying the new Air Force fighters, he said.

Housewife Kim In-ok, 37, said she was disappointed reading the statements, which she thought amounted to saying nobody can put any question to a former president. There must not be even an iota of suspicion about the peace dam and fighter program, and to clear the suspicion the two cannot be exceptions to the investigation, she said.

Seoul National University Professor Choe Kap-su, 40, said the statements were full of attempts to vindicate their wrongdoings in connection with the peace dam and the fighter program. The BAI should prosecute them as Chon gave an insincere reply and No refused to reply to questions put by the BAI, which is an constitutional organ, and the prosecution should investigate the pair of them, he said.

President Kim, recognizing that without taking action against the former two presidents, who were at the core of the corruption and irregularities of their administrations, his reforms will not succeed, should be resolute, Choe said.

Lawyer Ko Yong-ku said the statements, which amounted to saying that nobody can dispute an act of state, were an unjust protest. Since acts of state come under the Constitution, it can always be questioned whether a presidential act is constitutional. Their idea that the BAI cannot question presidential acts of state because it is under presidential control is just like saying a prosecutor cannot investigate his superior because he is under the senior prosecutor's control, he said.

The opposition Democratic Party reacted strongly, calling the statements unjust. Deputy party spokesman Kwon Il-sun said Chon's statement had disregarded the key BAI question of why he had ignored the Agency for National Security Planning's report that North Korea's Mt. Kumgang dam would not pose a threat to the Seoul Olympic Games. He then urged the DLP to cooperate in proposed parliamentary hearings on the two former presidents in connection with wrongs done by their governments as their statements made the hearings more necessary. Reps. Yi Sok-hyon and Kang Chang-song said the statements were "an act befooling the people" and parliamentary hearings had become even more necessary.

Cool Summer Threatens 1993 Rice Harvest

SK2608074993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By So Hae-song]

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 26 (YONHAP)—An unseasonably cool summer across Northeast Asia may have ruined the region's rice crop, though two weeks of strong sunshine could save the harvest. South Korean experts estimate that without clear skies until early next month, they could face a loss of up to 3 million sok (one sok is 144 kilograms) of rice from 37 million sok in 1992.

As rice accounts for more than 40 percent of agricultural income, the effect of a poor crop won't be limited to farmers but will cause overall economic hardship by fanning inflation. It is still premature to think the worst, but agricultural experts and related government officials say they can now only pray for good weather.

If sunshine showers the country between now and Sept. 5, when the ears are out, the harvest will be almost normal. If the temperatures of two degrees Celsius lower than usual that have prevailed since mid-July continued until Aug. 5, this year's rice output was projected to decrease 2 million sok worth 430 billion won (531 million U.S. dollars), 5.8 percent of the forecast at the beginning of the year, if they lasted until Aug. 15, down 2.8 million sok worth 600 billion won, 7.7 percent of the forecast, and if they lasted until Aug. 25, down 4.5 million sok worth 980 billion won, 12.4 percent of the forecast. Assuming that the weather makes no improvement until Sept. 5, the rice yield will be cut as much as 8 million sok.

Officials at the Agriculture Ministry wore hopeful countenances on Thursday, saying that although earing was 41.1 percent as of Aug. 20, far lower than the 73.8 percent of the same date last year, the figure shot up to 71.6 percent three days later thanks to warmer weather, compared with 89 percent a year earlier. They also say blight has spread to only 20.9 hectares and is not a

concern. Leaf blight infested 96,000 ha last year, but was much reduced with 8 billion won of government assistance.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng gave the same figures to the National Assembly Agricultural Committee Thursday, but in a more truthful manner. He said earing was 72 percent, compared with 89 percent last year, stems were 463 per square meter, off 7.6 percent from last year, and that earing and pollination were poor. All agree that plenty of sunshine can change all these numbers.

The optimum condition for rice to ripen is a total of 880 degrees of heat during the growing season, for example, 40 days of average temperatures of 22 degrees Celsius, and an expert says that because Korea's semi-late ripening rice comes into ear until Aug. 30, the weather between late September and early October will decide the harvest. Sunshine is what grain most needs after coming to ear, and with plenty of sun for more than 10 days and without an early frost, the rice crop will certainly fully ripen, the expert says. In 1980, when the country had a similar cool and rainy summer, the loss was 14 million sok because most of the rice was the high-yield "tongil" breed, but it's an entirely different picture today as a majority is a hardier low-yield variety that consumers prefer because of its flavor.

Other experts predict a crop reduction up to 3 million sok as inevitable since even the hardy rice is affected by prolonged cold and is more prone to blight than the tongil strain. They base their pessimism on the long-range forecast of scant sunshine and low temperatures in September. Because the high-yield varieties that make up 9 percent of the rice planted have been damaged by earlier cold weather, a smaller yield this year is already assured.

The ministry is confident that a smaller harvest won't disrupt the supply of rice to the nation's homes. As the government silos will contain 12.4 million sok of rice in late October, just before the harvest season, it can supply 33.7 million sok to feed the country this year even with a loss.

The government's confidence and promise do little to brighten farmers, who are also saddled with poor harvest of fruits and vegetables. Decreases of some 20 percent in apples, pears, and tangerines, which are also likely to be less sweet, are expected due to lack of sunshine and too much rain.

Farming of peppers rose 10 percent, but they too expect a poor harvest. Supplies of radish and Chinese cabbage will be normal. Worsening matters, the experts say, floods in farming areas of the United States are likely to push up international prices of corn, soy beans, and wheat.

Burma

U.S. Senator Shelby Arrives in Rangoon 25 Aug

BK2508142193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] At the invitation of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Minister Brigadier General Maung Maung, United States Senator Richard C. Shelby and a five-member delegation arrived by air in Yangon [Rangoon] at 1630 today. The delegation was welcomed at Yangon airport by Brig. Gen. Maung Maung and responsible personnel.

Later, Senator Shelby, his wife, and party called on Forestry Affairs Minister Lieutenant General Chit Swe at the Forestry Department's Meeting Hall at 1900. Also present were heads of departments and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Forestry Affairs.

Lao Group Arrives for Border Talks 23 Aug

BK2308144593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] A Lao border delegation led by Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister for foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and comprising 10 members arrived at Yangon [Rangoon] airport by air this evening to attend the fourth meeting of the Joint Myanmar [Burma]-Lao Border Committee. The delegation was welcomed at Yangon airport by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe and responsible personnel, members from the Myanmar side of the Joint Myanmar-Lao Border Committee, Lao Ambassador Kideng Thammavong, and embassy officials.

The delegation called on Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe at the People's Park restaurant. Responsible personnel from the Foreign Ministry were also present at the meeting.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe and wife Daw Thet Thet Swe hosted a dinner in honor of LPDR Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat and wife and delgation at the Kyun Shwe War Hall of the People's Park restaurant. The Lao delegation will stay in Myanmar till 26 August and will hold talks on demarcation of the Myanmar-Lao border along the Mekong River with the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe.

Talks Begin in Rangoon 24 Aug

BK2408143893 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The visiting Lao delegation led by Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister of foreign affairs, attended the fourth plenary meeting of the Joint Myanmar [Burma]-Lao Border Committee talks held at the Foreign Ministry's Annex building at 1000 today. Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe led the Myanmar side of the joint committee while visiting Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat led the Lao side.

In the evening, the visiting deputy foreign minister and entourage called on Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw at the latter's office.

Plenary Session To Meet After Analysis Completion

BK2508012093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The 14th meeting of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC] was held at 1000 today in the conference room of the NCCWC Office in the Kyaikkasan Grounds.

The meeting was attended by U Aung Toe, chairman of the NCCWC and chief justice; U Tha Tun, deputy chairman and attorney general; and committee members. Chairman U Aung Toe chaired the meeting and U Khin Maung Myint, director general in charge of holding meetings for the NCCWC Office, acted as secretary.

Speaking at the meeting, the chairman said groups of delegates had submitted their reports to the National Convention in order to lay down the basic principles for drafting the state constitution. The chairman explained that the Panel of Chairmen has been meeting since 16 August and thoroughly scrutinizing the 22 reports in order to present a comprehensive analysis of these reports to the plenary session of the National Convention.

The chairman explained that once the analysis report is completed the definite date for holding the plenary session of the National Convention will be announced. He said that the meeting was being called in order to explain the situation regarding the holding of the plenary session to the committee members, to coordinate management work of the work committee, and to allow committee members to present the matters they wish to submit.

The meeting then approved the minutes of the meeting and discussed the leave application of convention delegates, progress of the analysis of the reports being carried out by the work committee, and miscellaneous matters. The meeting ended at 1115 after a closing speech by the chairman.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister: 1st Satellite To Be Launched Late 1994

BK2508073993 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Local telecommunications companies and television stations will be required to make use of services

offered by Malaysia's first satellite, Malaysian East Asian Satellite or Measat, once it is placed in orbit. The minister of energy, telecoms, and posts, Datuk Sri Samy Vellu, said this was decided by the cabinet at its meeting last week. Measat is scheduled for launch atop an Ariane space rocket from Kourou in French Guiana late next year.

The minister told newsmen in Kuala Lumpur he would visit Russia, China, and Japan to find out how the three nations could assist Malaysia once the Measat is placed in orbit. His first visit will be to Russia next month. Datuk Sri Samy Vellu said he will also (?hold discussions) with the International Telecommunications Union in Washington regarding the orbit slot for the Malaysian satellite.

Cabinet Orders Phasing Out of Foreign Satellites

BK2508152593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0913 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 25 (AFP)—Telecommunication companies and television stations in Malaysia will not have access to foreign satellites once the country's own satellite is launched, a minister said Wednesday. The cabinet decided last week to make it mandatory for local firms to use the proposed Malaysia East Asia Satellite (Measat 1) for their satellite needs, Telecommunications Minister Samy Vellu Sangalimuthu said.

Samy Vellu said Malaysia expected to launch the Measat 1 by the first quarter of 1995. The government would convince the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to grant Malaysia an orbit slot at crucial talks scheduled in Washington this year, Samy Vellu said.

Officials said Indonesia's Palapa satellite was the most widely used by Malaysia's telecommunications firms and three television stations currently. They said that the Measat 1 could save Malaysia's fledgling telecommunications industry up to 12 million dollars a year, adding that it would also be an integral part of the country's proposed cable television services.

Malaysia plans to launch satellite television services at home featuring the American Cable New Network (CNN), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Hong Kong STAR TV from next year, media officials said. Samy Vellu said Kuala Lumpur had waited since last year to get a slot for the satellite due to objections from other satellite operating countries which feared competition if the project took off.

He said Malaysia has already forwarded the technical details of the project to the ITU, which licenses usage of satellites worldwide, to study its case ahead of the Washington talks. "We hope to get a positive decision after the talks," he said. The Measat 1, commissioned in November 1991, is to be launched by Paris-based Arianespace from the French Guyanan town of Kourou.

The 250 million dollar satellite is being built by U.S. aerospace company Hughes Communications International Inc. and will be operated by Malaysian company Binariang. Samy Vellu said he will visit Russia, China and Japan ahead of the Washington talks to assess how they could help Malaysia when the satellite is launched.

78% of Sixth Plan's Investment Target Achieved

BK2408071193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0634 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has so far achieved 78 percent of its investment target of RM [Malaysian ringgit] 80 billion (about U.S. $31.49 billion) under its sixth five-year development plan after having approved RM 62.41 billion (about U.S. $24.57 billion) worth of investments between January 1991 and June 1993, it was announced Tuesday.

International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said of the approved amount, investments from local investors totalled RM 25.43 billion (about U.S. $10 billion) or 40.7 percent. This amount was still short of the 60 percent target expected from local investors, she said here.

Under the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995), the investment target of RM 80 billion was needed for the manufacturing sector to grow at an average of 11.5 percent and contribute 32.4 percent to the gross domestic product.

While foreign investments will continue to be encouraged, particularly where such investments bring with them new technology and processes, capital, and expertise as well as market access, domestic investment initiatives will also be aggressively pursued to channel more local investors into the manufacturing sector, she said.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Leaves for 3-Day Visit to Singapore

BK2608051293 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] At the invitation of the Singapore Government, at 1030 on 26 August, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh led a Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC] delegation for a three-day official visit to Singapore.

Seeing the delegation off at Pochentong international airport were His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, PNGC cochairman; H.E. Keat Chhon and H.E. Ung Phan, deputy prime ministers; H.E. Ing Kiet and H.E. Van Molivan, state ministers; H.E. Thao Pengleat, National Bank governor; prince, PNGC ministers and deputy ministers; high ranking officiers of the Cambodian National Armed Forces; and ambassadors of friendly countries accredited to Cambodia.

Talking to correspondents beforing boarding the plane, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh said his trip to Singapore is to strengthen friendly relations.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen To Meet Sihanouk in DPRK

BK2608045293 Phnom Penh AKP in English 0413 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP August 26—Co-presidents of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC] would paid a visit to North Korea on August 30, said Sdach Kromluong Prince Norodom Ranariddh, PNGC co-president on August 24, during a meeting with Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh in Hanoi.

The PNGC Co-presidents, Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, have led a Cambodian delegation visiting Hanoi on August 23-25, the third of foreign country visits made by them since the formation of the PNGC in July after the U.N. organized elections in May in which the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the CPP party won the majority.

They were received by Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh on August 24 at the government palace in Hanoi.

During the reception Prince Ranariddh informed his host that part of his visit to Pyongyang was to inform Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk of their fruitful visit in Vietnam.

Ranariddh said the relations between the two countries, Cambodia and Vietnam, were based on respect of each other territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence.

Le Duc Anh hailed the visit of the co-presidents saying that the two countries have had good relations established since Prince Sihanouk was in power. The prince has established good relation of friendship between the two countries, he added.

He asked the Cambodian co-premiers to convey his invitation to Prince Sihanouk to visit Vietnam. The party, government and people of Vietnam are looking forward to seeing the prince in the very near future, he said.

He hailed the success of the holding of election in Cambodia resulting in the formation of the PNGC under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk. He expressed his belief that the united Cambodians would bring Cambodia to prosperity.

He said that the remaining problem between Cambodia and Vietnam would be settled at the levels of governments and concerned provincial authorities.

SRV's Vo Van Kiet Invites Sihanouk To Visit

BK2508095193 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0358 GMT 25 Aug 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Aug (AKP)—Our correspondent reports from the Vietnamese capital that talks were held at government offices in Hanoi on 23 August between the co-chairmen of the PNGC, (Provisional National Government of Cambodia), and Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. The cochairmen of the Cambodian Government, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, are currently on a visit to Vietnam, their first to that country and the third leg of their trip abroad since the establishment of the PNGC in early July.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh informed his Vietnamese counterpart on the favorable development of the situation in Cambodia, particularly the establishment of the provisional national government and the drafting of the new constitution. He also informed his counterpart about the insecurity triggered by the Khmer Rouge in particular, and which is being faced addressed the Cambodian Government. "The Party of Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge)," stressed the prince, "has to abide by the Paris peace agreement and to unconditionally integrate its troops into the unified national Army and to stop attacking government forces if it wants to return to the Cambodian national community."

For his part, Hun Sen, cochairman of the Cambodian Government, stressed that "the two countries' government should jointly resolve, for their mutual benefit, the two most important problems of the demarcation of the common border and the Vietnamese residents living in Cambodia." He proposed that the Vietnamese Government continue its economic and technical cooperation with Cambodia, facilitate navigation along the Mekong River from the sea in Vietnam, and provide scholarships to Cambodian students.

For his part, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet informed the Cambodian Government's delegation of the results of the economic restructuring policy in his country. Concerning the border problem, the head of the Vietnamese Government stressed that a joint commission should be set up to study, resolve, and redefine the border on the basis of mutual respect for the two countries' territorial integrity. Furthermore he suggested that the Cambodian Government take part in resolving, on the basis of respect for human rights, the problem of Vietnamese residents now living in Cambodia.

The Vietnamese prime minister agreed on the other two proposals put forward by Hun Sen concerning navigation along the Mekong and the scholarships for Cambodian students. He took the opportunity to express his profound thanks to Prince Norodom Sihanouk for supporting and assisting Vietnam when the latter was at war. "On behalf of the party, government, and people of

Vietnam, we would like to invite Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his wife, Princess Monique, to make an official friendship visit to Vietnam," stressed Vo Van Kiet.

Khieu Samphan Reaffirms Support for Sihanouk Plan

BK2608011293 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Aug 93

["Statement by His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, reaffirming the Party of Democratic Kampuchea's consistent and unswerving stance on national unity and national reconciliation;" dated 25 August—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] stance is to absolutely avoid doing anything that affects national unity and national reconciliation. Instead, the PDK will strive to overcome all obstacles and do everything for national unity and national reconciliation so that our nation has enough strength to solve all national problems within the framework of a peaceful, independent, and sovereign Cambodia with territorial integrity. This stance is firm and remains unchanged in all circumstances. The entire Cambodian nation and people are aware of and have witnessed this PDK stance and activities over the years.

2. Recently there were incidents in Stoung and Phnum Chhat. The Vietnamese aggressors, their puppets and lackeys, and allies used money and pressure to force some troops of the tripartite national resistance to lead Vietnam's puppet troops in the attack against Democratic Kampuchea.

The entire Cambodian nation and people regret these incidents deeply. They are hurt because our national resistance forces had been united and had lived together peacefully for over 10 years, sharing meals and utensils and cooperating in the struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors to liberate the nation.

However, the PDK, like the overwhelming majority of the Cambodian people, clearly understand that the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] or other tripartite national resistance forces are not the instigators of all this. The instigators are the Vietnamese aggressors, their puppets and lackeys, and allies whose dirty and most perfidious goal is to paint the national resistance forces with different colors and make them fight one another in order to split the national forces.

3. The PDK will absolutely not be caught in their trap and maneuver. The PDK would like to solemnly declare that it continues to be united with FUNCINPEC, ANKI [National Army of Independent Cambodia, FUNCINPEC army], and other national forces.

4. The PDK will continue to hold aloft and support the national reconciliation plan of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state. National reconciliation is the deep and passionate desire of our entire people. Everyone wants national reconciliation. Everyone needs national reconciliation.

Those who oppose national reconciliation, intentionally or unintentionally, are destroying the Cambodian nation, its people and peace. They are the ones serving the Vietnamese aggressors and allies to kill the nation.

5. The national reconciliation trend is very powerful. The entire Cambodian nation and people need unity among all national forces to solve the nation's problems. Everyone is against discarding or rejecting any national force. There would be no national reconciliation if any side is discarded or rejected. The Vietnamese aggressors will then continue to fuel the war and to occupy our beloved Cambodia forever.

The national reconciliation trend of our nation and people will certainly be achieved.

[Dated] 25 August 1993
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, PDK chairman and member of the Supreme National Council

Son Sann Asks KR, CPP To Hand Over Power

BK2508024193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Aug 93 p 6

[Text] Veteran Cambodian politician Son Sann appealed to the Khmer Rouge and the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) to hand over all power to the Provisional National Government of Cambodia (PNGC) to establish "only one, indivisible Cambodia." Son Sann, president of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and chairman of the Constituent Assembly, also appealed to all Cambodians to face reality and "correct themselves" to solve the many problems ahead of them when the United Nations withdraws next month.

He said the circumstances were favourable, however volatile, for a new beginning in Cambodia and all concerned must avoid repeating the events of 1975 and 1979 in which the Cambodian people were the main victims. "It now rests with the Cambodians to solve all these problems. This is a duty and an honour for us Cambodians," said Son Sann in a statement dated August 3 and released this week by his office in Bangkok.

"It demands from the Cambodians their acceptance to correct themselves in order to unite, and not to seek anymore to cling to power, personal interests or the interests of their parties," he said. Son Sann said genuine national reconciliation could be achieved "only if the CPP gives up control of all strata of the administration, the army, the police forces—secret or not—and lets the PNGC control and reshape all the administrative structure, all the state apparel of the SOC (State of Cambodia), to serve the nation.

"The same goes for the Democratic Kampuchea Party (or the Khmer Rouge) [DKP] which had always advocated the bestowing of real power to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, to enable him to bring about national reconciliation. "To this effect, the DKP must hand over to the PNGC all the means to control its zone, its administration, its armed forces, its finances so that there would be only one, indivisible Cambodia," Son Sann said. He said the Cambodian people had passed their verdict of rejection of communism in the UN sponsored multi-party election last May and the PNGC would abide by this verdict which was also a wish for national reconciliation.

General: No Further Plans To Attack Khmer Rouge

BK2408091893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0748 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug 24 (AFP)—Cambodia's Deputy Defence Minister Tie Bahn said Tuesday that government forces were not yet planning to launch major attacks on the two major Khmer Rouge strongholds of Pailin and Anlong Veng. "We are going to relax now and wait and see the situation," Tie Bahn said, while warning that if the rebel faction continued to attack government positions the national army would retaliate. He said the earlier attack on its base in Phnom Chat was "just the first warning to the Khmer Rouge."

The comments followed a message in which Cambodian co-premiers Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranariddh congratulated government troops for their recent, successful offensive against Khmer Rouge bases in the northwest. "The co-premiers deeply praise the courageous spirit that brought success to the united armed forces," state radio reported late Monday.

Tea Banh said the momentum had shifted to the political arena. "First we are going to wait and see how much the Khmer Rouge really want to join the new government," he said. "We do not want to create problems. But let it be clear that if the Khmer Rouge continue to create problems we will exercise our right of self-defence again."

Khmer Rouge radio meanwhile accused the government of using the offensive to scupper head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk's plans for national reconciliation and for talks he had advocated to discuss the Khmer Rouge's future role in both the government and the armed forces. The radical faction called for urgent talks with the government during the recent offensive but the co-premiers refused, saying they were "too busy." Khmer Rouge envoy Chan Youran then left the capital for Pyongyang on Saturday to meet with Prince Sihanouk in the first of a series of discussions scheduled over the next several weeks aimed at resolving the ongoing conflict.

Paper Urges Sihanouk Constitutional Intervention

BK2508142293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug 25 (AFP)—The leading Cambodian daily in an editorial Thursday called for Prince Norodom Sihanouk to intervene and make a decision on the country's flailing constitutional process. The call came a day after a statement from the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party rejecting the newly drafted constitution, which has yet to be ratified, and calling for a restoration of the constitutional monarchy based on the old 1947 constitution.

The FUNCINPEC statement threatened to deadlock the constituent assembly when it meets to ratify the document on September 10, because FUNCINPEC controls 58 seats of the 120 in the assembly and a two-thirds majority—or 80 seats—is needed for ratification.

The editorial in the RASMEI KAMPUCHEA (LIGHT OF CAMBODIA), called "Please, Prince Sihanouk, answer us with just one word," indirectly accused co-premier and FUNCINPEC chief Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the son of Prince Sihanouk, of trying to usurp power. "Actually the 1947 constitution is no different from the newly drafted constitution except that a monarchy has a king and the king will allow his son to inherit power without any input from the people," it said. The new draft calls for a parliamentary system with an elected head of state who has roughly the same powers as the constitutional monarch.

The editorial pointed out that the drafting committee made up of members of the two rival Cambodian parties spent two months writing the document and that its efforts should not be so easily discarded by the wishes of Prince Ranariddh. "The Cambodian people want a clear, complete constitution which serves and protects their interests, their rights and their lives," the editorial said.

In the FUNCINPEC statement, the party called for a monarchy similar to those in England, Spain, Thailand and Japan. "History has shown that Cambodia's political stability depends upon Buddhist tenets and the king. The king is the basis of stability," the statement said. "Cambodia needs to have a head of state who does not have his own political party, meaning a king. The king is the cement who can connect all the broken parts and build a bridge to connect one party with another party," it said.

Prince Ranariddh is due to present the constitution to his father in Pyongyang next week, but it is not clear which one he will present. "All of us (the Cambodian people) are waiting to see the result after the constitution is taken for the approval of Prince Sihanouk in Pyongyang at the end of this month, so the prince should reply as soon as possible about which constitution he wants," the newspaper said.

Radio Reports Farming Activities, Drought

BK2208073093 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Aug 93

[Text] By mid-August, our compatriot peasants throughout the country have plowed over 1,045,000 hectares of rainy season rice field; sowed over 188,000 hectares of rice; and transplanted and broadcast over 590,900 hectares of various types of rice, or over 28 percent of the plan. Compared to the same period of last year, these results represent an increase of about 23,800 hectares. Cities and provinces that have achieved the most are Banteay Meanchey with over 58 percent, Battambang with 52 percent, and Kompong Thom with over 42 percent.

As for subsidiary crops, during the same period of time our compatriots have planted over 38,900 hectares of corn, 7,800 hectares of potatoes, 12,500 hectares of beans, and 17,000 hectares of vegetables. Our compatriots nationwide are currently busy transplanting rainy season rice.

However, some areas in a number of provinces are facing shortage of water due to drought, for example in Takeo, Kampot, Kompong Speu, and Kompong Thom Provinces.

Indonesia

New Envoy 'Confident' on Economic Ties With U.S.

BK2508035593 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 16 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Arifin Siregar, the newly appointed ambassador to the United States, is confident the U.S. threat to lift trade privileges will not affect that country's future economic relations with Indonesia. "Relations between the two countries, especially in the economic field, will continue to grow even though the U.S. administration is currently threatening to drop trade privileges," he told a meeting of the Association of German Alumni.

The United States is threatening to abolish trade privileges allowed to Indonesia under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) facility if the republic does not improve the conditions of its laborers. He said a special team formed by the government recently to assess Indonesia's response to the threat is expected to reach a solution which will satisfy both countries.

Arifin, a minister of trade in the government's previous cabinet, said that the United States has provided support for Indonesia both politically and financially since the early years of Indonesia's independence. "Based on what we have experienced in the last 20 years, I am sure that business relations with the United States will continue to expand in the future," he said.

The association chaired by State Minister of Agrarian Affairs Soni Harsono was holding a farewell party for Arifin, the deputy chairman of the association's Honorary Council. Armed Forces Chief General Feisal Tanjung and Sudarpo Sastrosatomo were appointed as members of the Honorary Council during the meeting, which was also attended by German Ambassador Karl Walter Lewalter.

Arifin said he was optimistic that the country's exports to the United States would further increase in the future. Indonesia's exports to the United States reached U.S. $4.4 billion last year, as compared to its imports of $3.8 billion from that country.

The United States' direct investments in the non-oil sectors in Indonesia are still lower than those made by Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, he said. "But in oil-related industries, the United States is still the largest investor in Indonesia," he said. Indonesian exporters have yet to optimally benefit from the trade incentives under the GSP facility, he said, adding that the value of the country's exports under the GSP facility amounted to $640 million or around 14 percent of its total exports to the United States last year.

The United States has given Indonesia until February next year to improve the treatment of its workers or lose the trading privileges allowed under the GSP facility. Arifin made further comments on the possible economic and political impacts of the loss of the U.S. trade privileges during yesterday's meeting, but he asked newsmen not to publish his statements.

Not long after being sworn in as ambassador to the United States at the State Palace here two weeks ago, he told reporters he expected to have to face a heavy challenge in dealing with human rights issues and their impact on bilateral economic ties with the United States. He said yesterday that his immediate task is now to lobby for the maintenance of Indonesia's preferential trade status. "My task is now to reconcile the views of the Democratic administration, which are very much oriented toward human rights and democracy, and those of the Indonesian Government," he said.

The burden of the new ambassador was made much heavier and the delicacy of the U.S.-Indonesia relations was further tested with the government's recent banning of a conference of the largest independent trade union, the Prosperous Labor Union of Indonesia (SBSI), in Bogor, West Java. A U.S. Embassy spokeswoman said over the weekend that Washington had been invited to send a team after it threatened to cut trade privileges over Indonesia's labor record. She could not confirm that the invitation had been accepted.

Government officials have rejected reports that Washington had either canceled the visit or turned down the invitation as unfounded. According to some reports, the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta had advised Washington to cancel the team's visit after the government barred

Indonesia's largest independent trade union, the SBSI, from holding its congress. The United States criticized the ban.

Joint Venture To Provide Cellular Phone Service

BK2508011293 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Aug 93 p 9

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—PT [Company Limited] Bakrie Electronics Company (BEC), a subsidiary of the Bakrie Group, signed a joint-venture agreement yesterday with the state-owned domestic telecommunications company, PT Telkom, to provide cellular digital radio telephone services. The agreement on the establishment of PT Ratelindo (Radio and Telephone Indonesia) was signed by Telkom's president, Setyanto P. Santosa, and Hardianto Kamarga of BEC, who has also been appointed as Ratelindo's president.

The joint venture has an authorized capital of Rp. [rupiah] 200 billion (U.S. $95.46 million), including a paid-up capital of Rp. 40 billion, of which 45 percent is owned by Telkom and 55 percent by BEC. Ratelindo's business will include the supply of cellular digital radio telephones and their maintenance. The cellular digital radio telephones (CDRL) [acronym as published], the first to be introduced in Indonesia, are expected to cater to the businesses that cannot be served by the normal telephone system and customers in the areas where telephone cables are not yet installed.

Bakrie Group's chief commissioner, Abu Rizal Bakrie, said the advantages of the CDRL telephones include the simplicity of their installation. Hardianto told reporters that during the first phase, which will begin in August next year, the company, will install 280,000 telephone lines for Jakarta and West Java. The company plans to install no less than 500,000 telephone lines in eight large cities in Indonesia.

Bakrie yesterday also revealed that his company and Telkom have jointly researched their plan to provide telephones in rural areas, employing a new technology. "Currently, villagers need telephones, but it is difficult to meet their demands because installing telephones there is generally not profitable. Telephone calls in villages are fewer than the number in cities, while the cost for telephone installation is the same or more expensive than it is in cities," Bakrie explained.

He said installation in cities will cost only around $1,000 to $1,500 per line, while in villages the cost may exceed $6,000. "Therefore, with a new technology called the advanced rural telephone system (ARTS), the cost for telephone installation in rural areas can be reduced to $1,000," Bakrie said, adding that his company and Telkom have presented the technology and information about the new system in a meeting of the International Telecommunications Union.

Rural areas in Indonesia actually need around 1.5 million telephone lines, but the government, thus far, has installed only around 200,000 lines, he said. "With the new technology, the number of telephone lines in rural areas can be increased to 1.2 million lines within a short period of time," Bakrie claimed. The two companies have spent no less than $12 million to research ARTS.

East Timor Governor: Citizens Allowed To Leave

LD2508211093 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] East Timor Governor Abilio Osorio has stated, surprisingly, that East Timorese are free to leave Indonesia after all, provided that they identify themselves as Portuguese citizens [sentence as heard]. Interviewed by the LUSA News Agency in Rome, where he had an audience with the pope, Abilio Osorio stated that the Jakarta authorities could actually help East Timorese in the aforementioned circumstances. This statement is bound to be welcomed by the seven East Timorese being detained in the Indonesian capital. We learned this afternoon that the seven young men who sought political asylum from Finland and Sweden may now come to Portugal sooner than was expected.

Golkar Politician Urges Reduced Military Role

BK2508034793 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 16 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The military, which has played a vital role in maintaining national unity and cohesion, should now take a back seat and let other groups in society determine the course of the nation, two political analysts say. Harry Can Silalahi of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies said the Armed Forces (ABRI) should learn to listen to the voice of the people or else it may be rebuffed.

Marzuki Darusman, a senior politician of the ruling Golkar [Functional Group] political grouping said ABRI would soon cease to be the only protector of political stability and its dynamics. He envisaged a more limited but specific role for ABRI as the preserver of a political climate where it checks itself from dealing too much in the day-to-day political management.

Both men spoke to THE JAKARTA POST on ABRI's political role in conjunction with the 48th anniversary of Indonesia's independence which falls tomorrow. ABRI has played a prominent part in post-independent Indonesia's political development, assuming the role of the guardian of the Pancasila ideology and the 1945 Constitution. This dual-role concept of ABRI, as a defense and security force as well as a sociopolitical force, has been given legitimacy by the House of Representatives (DPR).

The military is allocated seats in the DPR and the People's Consultative Assembly and many of its officers occupy key posts in central and provincial governments.

The number of ABRI officers commissioned for non-military positions has declined in recent years, and this is most notable in President Suharto's cabinet appointed last March.

"With all its legal flaws and its wrong actions, the Armed Forces (ABRI) is still accepted by the people," Silalahi said. "Now the military should think, 'why am I still accepted? When will I be stopped being accepted?" Silalahi said, adding that in this respect of taking stock of its situation ABRI is no different from a political party. When a party no longer pays heed to the people's aspirations, it will be rejected by the people, he said, pointing to Thailand and South Korea where the people rejected the power of the military because their aspirations fell on deaf ears.

Silalahi said if the ABRI strengthens its domination over the society and lets the economic disparity between western and eastern Indonesia widen it will no longer be able to function as an integrating factor. A wider opportunity for the people to voice their aspirations would indeed strengthen the position of the military, he said, adding that the current trend in this aspect is positive "though a bit slow."

Marzuki said the ABRI has succeeded in its role as the promoter of the political stability but said that increasingly it has to share this role with other groups in society. "ABRI is at an advantage (compared to the other groups) and this is what made it so prominent," Marzuki said.

Marzuki said today is the transitional era where the military is expected to share its power with other institutions which may also become integrating factors. Marzuki said the shift in power is running too slow and a political development and democracy agenda, which will define the perspective of the power shift and the steps to be taken to realize it, is needed to speed up the pace.

Analysts View Possibility of Political Reform

BK2508010093 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The time is ripe for Indonesia to forge ahead with reforms after building the foundations of "Pancasila Democracy" for the last 20 years, political analysts say. To give impetus to these reforms, human rights lawyer Adnan Buyung Nasution and politician Marzuki Darusman propose that the new democracy be called the "Indonesian Democracy."

Arbi Sanit of the University of Indonesia proposed that the present leadership from the old guard push through reforms before stepping down and making way for younger leaders. Harry Can Silalahi of the Center for International and Strategic Studies said the government should take the initiative for change rather than simply responding to chains of events.

The four men were interviewed separately by THE JAKARTA POST on their views about democracy in Indonesia as the country marks its 48th independence anniversary this coming Tuesday. Nasution, who in the past has always been critical of the government, said President Suharto has sent out positive signals in recent months toward a better application of democracy.

In both speech and action, the president has shown his desire to undertake reforms in the scope of democratization, human rights, and the maintenance of law and justice, Nasution said. He cited as examples the establishment of the National Council on Human Rights and the first official contact with the government's staunch critics in the Petisi 50 [Petition of 50] organization. The president also has asked government agencies to eliminate the people's fear and encourage creativity, maintain the supremacy of law, and regard conflicts as reasonable occurences in a dynamic society.

Nasution said the future democracy should be called "Indonesian Democracy" and not "Pancasila Democracy" because the latter is associated with the practices of the past 25 years, which in fact "is not democracy at all but a violation to it." He said: "We should not degrade Pancasila into the practices which create fear in the society, make light of the law, and do not acknowledge conflicts," he said.

Marzuki of the ruling political organization Golkar [Functional Group], endorsing Nasution's proposal, said "Pancasila Democracy" has emphasized its formal results such as the Guidelines for State Policies, the sole basis of organizations, and the Law on Political Parties and the Golkar Functional Group. "In such a democracy all the constitutional procedures are fulfilled but nothing more," he said, adding that what is needed more is a democratic process which puts more emphasis on the "operationalization" of democracy.

An "Indonesian Democracy" based on Pancasila would be more substantial, he said, adding that such an idea constituted a move toward momentum in political spheres. Arbi said there has been no democracy in Indonesia because all of the progress made since independence has benefitted only the rich.

He blamed the situation on the leadership of the generation of freedom fighters which won independence 48 years ago. "Before they step down, they should solve the problem of inequity or it will become a time bomb," he said.

Silalahi said the government should not only react to the current changes but should become an agent of change itself so that it could accommodate the tension between the government and the society or individuals and not allow any tension to deteriorate into violence. Nasution's positive view of Suharto was accompanied by a skeptical analysis of the ability of the president's aides to understand his wishes.

In the case of Petisi 50, for example, he said the government should follow up the rapprochement effort by reinstating the civil rights of the dissidents. But

instead, officials came out with remarks hardening the government's old position by stressing that there would be no reconciliation, he said. The government's intervention in the affairs of the Indonesian Democratic Party showed its actions were inconsistent with the president's efforts to launch political reform, he said. Nasution said he hoped the president in his Independence Day speech on Monday would explain clearly and concretely his policy and political will so that the nation and international community will understand what is in his mind.

Electricity Official Views Generation Projects

BK2308132593 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 7 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The State Electricity Company (PLN) has carefully prepared new power generation projects to bring the power shortage which began in 1991 to an end and guarantee there will not be an energy crisis in the years to come. "PLN's development prorams will increase its generation capacity by 17.2 percent per annum, higher than the annual increase of electricity demand in the country," PLN's director for development planning, Koyat Amadikun told THE JAKARTA POST in an interview here on Thursday.

Rapid growth in the manufacturing industry, which utilizes about 72 percent of the country's power generation, has increased the growth of electricity demand to about 17 percent per annum in the few years while PLN's power capacity expanded only by 15.3 percent a year. The higher than expected expansion in the industry caused PLN to fail to meet electricity demand in 1991.

Koyat said the current annual growth in the generation capacity should prove to be adequate because the rate of growth in the demand for electricity is expected to decline to 12 percent per annum in the coming five years and to eight percent in the year 2000.

He said PLN's power capacity will increase from almost 13,000 megawatts (MW) this year to 15.000 MW next year, to 25,035 MW by the end of 1999 and to 35,832 MW by the end of 2003. PLN's capacity is now recorded at 9,657 MW in Java and Bali, which are interconnected with high-voltage transmission networks, and around 3,000 MW on other islands.

Koyat said PLN has implemented a crash program for its capacity expansion, which includes the construction of a combined cycle power plant in Muara Karang, North Jakarta, with a capacity of 450 MW and another one with a capacity of 1,500 MW in Gresik, East Java. The construction of the Muara Karang project will be completed by the end of this year and the Gresik plant in March next year.

PLN will also complete the construction of a 100-MW open cycle power station in Medan, North Sumatra, by the end of this year, a 324-MW open cycle at Tambak Lorok in the Central Java capital city of Semarang by 1994, a 23-MW hydro-power generation at Kedung Ombo, East Java, later this year, a 36-MW diesel-fueled power plant in Tulungagung, East Java, by next year, a number of diesel power plants with a combined capacity of 83.2 MW by the end of this year and a number of hydro-power generations with a total capacity of 4.6 MW next year.

PLN's president, Zuhal, said last week PLN will require around Rp [Rupiah] 48 trillion [US$22.91 billion] in new investments for the construction of power plants throughout the country in the coming five years. During this year alone, PLN will need around Rp 7.3 trillion for its power generation projects. Last year, it spent Rp 6 trillion for its projects.

Koyat said PLN will carry out another crash program in 1995, which will include the construction of three new combined cycle power units in Pasuruan, East Java, Tambak Lorok in Central Java and Muara Tawar, West Java, to respond to the public's worry due to the delays in PLN's negotiations with PT [Company Limited] Paiton Energy Co. on the construction of two coal-fired power units, each with a capacity of 600 MW in Paiton, East Java.

To accelerate the plants' development, President Suharto Thursday instructed PLN to make repeat orders from Mitsubishi and Siemens for the construction of a plant in Pasuruan/Grati, East Java, with a capacity of 500 MW, from Sumitomo Corp and General Electric for Tambak Lorok's second unit with a capacity of 500 MW and from Asea Brown Bovery (ABB) for a plant in Muara Tawar with a combined capacity of 800 MW.

"We expect that the construction of the three plants which will likely cost around Rp 2.6 trillion, will be completed by early 1995 with the hope this will help to meet the electricity demand in 1995/1996," he said, adding that the repeat orders were based on the good performance of the contractors.

The Mitsubishi-Siemens consortium constructed the first unit of combined cycle power plant in Gresik with a capacity of 500 MW, Sumitomo and General Electric the first unit of the Tambak Lorok plant with a capacity of 500 MW and ABB the 420-MW combined cycle plant in Tanjung Priok, North Jakarta. Under a repeat order, all the requirements for new plants will be the same as those for the previous projects.

Philippines

Germany Condones Half of $200 Million in Loans

HK2608055093 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 26 Aug 93 p 17

[Report by Cory S. Narisma]

[Text] Germany has agreed to condone half of its $200-million loan exposure in the Philippines, Trade and

Industry Secretary Rizalino S. Navarro disclosed yesterday. He said the European country has also decided to allow the Philippines to undertake debt-relief schemes for the remaining $100 million loan.

The government, according to Navarro, has submitted to Germany a concept paper on debt relief options in a bid to rechannel money allocated for debt service to more productive projects in the export, environment, education and health sectors. Navarro said he had discussed the debt-reduction program with Germany's economic vice minister Heinrich Kolb, who was in Manila recently.

The debt condonation, which will be done through a bilateral agreement between the Philippine and German governments, will be similar to a scheme approved by Germany in cancelling its loan exposure in Kenya. Navarro said that a number of bilateral creditors such as Switzerland, France, Spain and Belgium have expressed willingness to cancel part of their outstanding loans to the Philippines.

Under the debt buy-back scheme, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas [Central Bank of the Philippines] can purchase Philippine debt papers at approximately 75-percent of their face value, or a discount of 25 percent. This savings of 25 U.S. cents for every dollar of debt paper bought can then be made available to the government's development projects.

Formal agreement on the debt relief program would be worked out by Germany's Ministry of Cooperation and the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs, Navarro said.

The Philippine concept paper on debt relief also cited other ways of designing the conversion of debt into resources for development projects. These include the following:

—Putting up of a counterpart fund arising from these debt relief measures into an endowment so that the principal remains intact and only interest earnings will be used for development projects;

—Investment of the principal of the endowment in stocks of profitable government corporations that are to be privatized, and

—Investment of the endowment in risk-free government securities.

Navarro said that Kolb also assured the Philippines of continued official development assistance (ODA), pointing out that Germany was willing to finance more development projects in the Philippines.

Navarro said a German delegation is arriving next week to discuss possible assistance to the government. A German trade and investment mission is also scheduled to visit Manila in the fourth quarter of this year, he added.

Police Identify Communist Hit Squad Targets

HK2608055493 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Aug 93 p 12

[Text] The Philippine National Police (PNP) Intelligence Command (IC) has zeroed in on five targets with which the Communist Party of the Philippines Manila-Rizal Regional Party Committee's (MRRPC) Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) will kick off its "Operation Dirty Job" in metro Manila.

In a secret memorandum circulated last August 20 to the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC), the PNP National Capital Region Command (Capcom), and the five major PNP district commands, PNP-IC commander Chief Supt Jewel Canson identified four personalities marked for assassination and two establishments targetted for robbery/hold-up operations.

The report identified the four personalities as a certain Major Favis of the PACC; a still unidentified Capcom chief inspector from Cainta, Rizal; a still unidentified barangay chairman; and Avelino Pagulawan, whom suspected ABB partisans had already assassinated three weeks ago.

The same document identified the two targets for robbery/hold-up operations as Sulpicio Lines in Pier 14 and a still unidentified bank in the vicinity of the University of the East, Kalookan.

It will be recalled MRRPC chairman Filemon Lagman had earlier announced his command would resume urban partisan operations against some 1,000 military, police, and other civil government officials as well as civilians who are engaged in drug trafficking, illegal gambling, and prostitution.

The standard ABB practice in this regard has been to forewarn targets "to mend their ways" before resorting to "more forceful measures."

Military Declares Cease-fire in Samar From 1 Oct

HK2608054293 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 26 Aug 93 p 6

[Report by Cerwin T. Eviota]

[Text] Camp Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City—The Military will suspend all operations in Samar by Oct. 1, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia announced Tuesday. On the same day, governors of the three Samar provinces will declare an islandwide unilateral ceasefire, Brig. Gen. Ruperto Ambil, head of the Samar Island Command, said.

Abadia is confident the Samar ceasefire will boost the peace efforts of the government. He said the ceasefire since October last year in Eastern Samar and a similar one in Northern Samar that initially started last month have yielded positive results.

Aside from the surrender of top and middle-ranking rebel commanders, the unilateral ceasefire helped in the confidence-building efforts for the peace process, he said.

Abadia spoke at ceremonies for the turnover of command in the Visayas Command [Viscom] Tuesday. The AFP chief of staff said, however, that hardline communist rebels have transferred to Negros, citing the landing of Waray-speaking armed men and the series of clashes in southern Negros.

He declared during a press conference later that Samar is no longer the number one headache of the AFP in its anti-insurgency campaign in the Visayas. "You could say it that way," Abadia replied when asked if Negros has already taken the place of Samar as the last stronghold of the New People's Army in the area.

Abadia acknowledged that the efforts for peace of the Samar governors led to the ceasefire plan through their close coordination with Maj. Gen. Thelmo Y. Cunanan. Cunanan, who will assume command of the Southern Command in Mindanao next week relinquished his Viscom post yesterday to Maj. Gen. Romulo F. Yap.

Yap, Samar island commander two years ago, was transferred here from the Northern Luzon Command. Yap vowed to continue the plans and programs of Cunanan, including the Samar ceasefire plan.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Ambil disclosed that western Samar will follow the northern and eastern provinces in declaring a unilateral ceasefire on Oct. 1. He said the Samar Provincial Board already adopted a resolution supporting the declaration that will put into effect the ceasefire plan. Ambil credited Northern Samar Gov. Lutgardo Barbo, who used to be an activist during the Marcos era, for the development in Samar today. He said it was Barbo who pushed for the ceasefire plan at least in Samar through the Regional Development Council of Eastern Visayas.

Manila 'Lightning' Rally Draws Communist Rebels

HK2608062893 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Approximately fifty members of the National Democratic Front [NDF] held a lightning rally at Liwasang Bonifacio [Manila] at around 1115 this morning. The brief rally lasted only 10 minutes, and the participants began dispersing in different directions as soon as the police arrived at the scene. Here is a follow up report from Radio Patrol 12, Rod Hizon:

[Begin Hizon recording] Several people claiming to be members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NDF-New People's Army held a lightning demonstration, which started at Liwasang Bonifacio between 1115 and 1125 this morning and later proceeded to Morayta, Manila. The rally lasted until 1145, at which time the participants began to disperse. The demonstration, which started with 50 people, grew to include a group of 300 people, all claiming to be NDF members, causing a major traffic jam in the city. Most of the participants were teenagers, who were shouting with their fists raised. [end recording]

Ramos Rejects Plan To Fund Rebel Returnee Program

HK2608050893 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos and Senate President Edgardo Angara have rejected the proposal by Oscar Santos, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, to use the P70 billion [Philippine pesos] coconut levy fund to finance the government's rebel returnee program.

During an interview, Senator Angara said that the Senate has already consulted President Ramos, who turned down the proposal. According to the senate president, the fund must first be used to benefit the country's farmers. He added that it would be difficult to implement Santos' proposal to use that money fund for the rebel returnees' benefit, because the fund must first be declared either a public or private fund before the proposal could be put into motion.

Congressman Marcos Expresses Support for Ramos

HK2608051493 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Congressman Ferdinand Bong Bong Marcos Jr. affirmed his support for President Ramos and his programs during an open forum at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel. The congressman also admitted, however, that there are times when he disagrees with some of Ramos' policies, especially those pertaining to the repatriation and burial of former President Marcos' remains.

Congressman Marcos added that he only suggested the possibility of bringing his father's corpse into Manila because the government is still complicating the preparations for the venue and other burial arrangements. The young Marcos assured that his family remains firm on its decision to bring the body of the former president directly to Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

General: 'Dirty Tricks Department' Against Media

HK2508151693 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] It now appears that there is an aggressive campaign to destroy media institutions in the face of significant developments in the country. It could be seen that an invisible group, known as the dirty tricks department, is behind the orchestrated attempt.

It is believed that a so-called blue book used by Calauan [Laguna] Mayor Antonio Sanchez [who is in jail facing rape and murder charges] to run his illegal gambling operations was being exploited by psywar [psychological warfare] experts. It was said that the blue book contained names of politicians, police officials and media figures in the payroll of the controversial mayor.

The discovery of the media men was being used by psywar operatives to destroy the credibility of the media, which is now seen as an adversary of the present administration.

It is suspected that the disclosure of the blue book was intended as a smokescreen for major developments in the next few days which authorities want to cover up.

The dirty tricks department, allegedly led by a retired general, also tried to destroy the credibility of the Supreme Court early in the present administration in an effort to have their people appointed. It can be noted that even now, the campaign against the high tribunal continues.

The regular search and destroy tactics were also used on former Philippine National Police [PNP] chief Cesar Nazareno and in taking control of the largest telecommunications company in the country.

In a related development, Makati Congressman Joker Arroyo revealed that the government's dirty tricks department is behind the campaign to destroy institutions like the judiciary, legislature, local officials and now the media. Arroyo said in an interview that the campaign began against the Supreme Court, followed by those against the legislature, and now local officials and the media.

Arroyo said this is a clear indication of a path toward authoritarianism or dictatorship.

Arroyo noted that earlier, the Department of Interior and Local Government pitted the PNP against the mayors by pushing the Oplan Paglalansag [the campaign to disband private armed groups], and focusing on local executives who maintain private armies and are involved in illegal gambling.

Arroyo said it is obvious the objective of these moves was to destroy the credibility of the institutions to disguise the big failure of the administration and the intentions of people behind the alleged manipulation of the national leadership.

Jun Official Debt Totals 1.1 Trillion Pesos

HK2608055293 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Aug 93 p 14

[Report by Almira R. Hernandez]

[Text] The country's total outstanding public debt rached P1.109 trillion [Philippine pesos] last June. This amount represented an increase of 1.32% from P1.094 trillion recorded in the previous month. This includes all foreign and domestic liabilities incurred by the government, its branches, agencies, and other instrumentalities.

Statistics obtained from the Bureau of the Treasury (BoT) reveal that such increase was brought about by the 2.5% expansion of the country's foreign debt. During the month, outstanding public external debt amounted to P562.6 billion, comprising 50.75% of the aggregate.

As in the previous months, real accounts cornered the bulk or 61.63% of the total. Of these, regular accounts stood at P312.4 billion, comprising 90.1% of the aggregate. Among these liabilities were P262.9 billion worth of loans availed by various government agencies. The remaining P49.5 billion were externally sourced to be relent to the different government-owned and-controlled corporations (GOCCs). Some P86.4 billion or 24.92% of the real accounts consisted of loans converted into bonds.

The remaining P34.4 billion or 9.9% of the real accounts was made up of the assumed public external credit. These liabilities refer to those loans which were transferred from government-owned and controlled corporations. These include the Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, Philippine Nuclear Power Plant, National Development Co, Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp, and Philippine Airlines.

On the other hand, contingent public foreign loans or those guaranteed by the Philippines, cornered 23.0% of the overall external debt. Of these, regular borrowings accounted for 71.48%. Assumed foreign liabilities amounted to P36.9 billion, representing 28.52% of the total.

Meanwhile, public ,domestic debt was recorded at P546.04 billion, 0.14% higher than the P545.3 billion posted in May. This comprised 49.25% of the overall public debt.

Real accounts cornered the bulk or 99.06% at P540.9 billion. Regular accounts amounted to P501.5 billion or 92.71%. Some P501.5 billion went to the different government agencies. The remaining P13.1 million were borrowed domestically for relending purposes. Assumed loans made up 7.3% of the total local borrowings.

Internal contingent liabilities increased 2.74% from P4.985 billion in May to P5.122 billion last June. The bulk of these domestic borrowings was mostly made up of regular guaranteed loans amounting to P4.721 billion.

Thailand

Prime Minister Chuan, Delegation Leave for PRC

BK2508071093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his entourage, comprising over 200 government officials

and representatives of the private sector, left Bangkok for a visit to the PRC. The visit is aimed at further strengthening friendly relations in foreign affairs, trade, and investment between the two countries.

Prior to his departure, the prime minister reportedly expressed his concern over the current problematic situation in the southern region, in particularly the latest sniping incident during which a villager was killed.

Trip To Yield $2 Billion in Contracts

BK2508025193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Aug 93 p 15

[Text] Contracts totalling almost 50 billion baht are scheduled to be signed over the next 10 days when Prime Minister Chuan Likphai visits China with a delegation of over 130 Thai bankers, traders, industrialists, service providers and tourism operators.

The biggest-ever entourage for a Thai prime minister's trip leaves for Beijing today and is expected to sign several joint-venture, trade and economic cooperation accords with their Chinese counterparts.

Among those on the 10-day tour is Thanin Chiarawanon, president of the Charoen Pokkhaphan Group. The CP Group is one of the largest foreign investors in China with 15 agri-industrial ventures in various locations, including one aquaculture project, and a motorcycle manufacturing operation in Shanghai.

Another prominent businessman with strong connections in China, Suchai Wiramithikun, chairman of M Thai Group, is also in the delegation. Other members include Bangkok Bank executive board chairman Chatri Sophonphanit, Board of Trade president Suwit Wangli, Federation of Thai Industries president Chokchai Aksaranan, Thai Bankers' Association president Som Chatusiphithak and Central Group president Suthikiat Chirathiwat. Prominent businesses sending delegates include CP Group, Central Group, Ban Pu Co, Ban Chang Group, Chinnawat Group and TIPCO Group.

The Thai and the Chinese premiers are scheduled to sign an economic cooperation agreement on Thursday at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Thai private-sector organisations will also sign agreements with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The largest joint-venture accord to be signed during the trip is one between the Soon Hua Seng (Advance Agro) Group and China's Hunan Grain Bureau worth 7,500 million yuan (1 yuan equals 4.4 baht). The project will involve construction of an animal feed mill, plastic-bag factory, power plant, vegetable oil factory, truck assembly plant, and rice milling factory.

Some of the other joint ventures are:

—A 24-million-yuan project between CP Group and its Chinese Anhui Motorcycle Industry Company to produce 250cc and 50cc Xingfu motor-cycles and scooters.

—An agreement by Nam Heng Steel to purchase rolling machinery and electric furnaces worth US$6.5 million from China Metallurgical Construction Co.

—A joint venture between Thailand's Ruoy Chai Group of Companies and Hainan Electricity Authority to construct a lignite power plant worth 3,000 million yuan in Hainan. Thais and Chinese will each hold 25 percent of the shares in the project. Further agreements on the disposition of the remaining 50 percent of the shares—to Chinese or foreign investors remain to be worked out.

The project will have two electricity generators, the first to start operating in 1997.

—A joint venture between Boomerang Group of Companies and China's Shenzhen Golf Service to build a nine-hole golf course and health club in Shenzhen worth 30 million yuan. Boomerang Group will hold 45 percent of the shares, the Chinese Government 45 percent, and Shenzhen 10 percent. Construction will begin next month and finish in 1995.

—A joint venture between TOC International Group and China's Jianchi Provincial Stock Co, Haikou Fareast Textile and Nanchang Ghang Bei Investment to produce footwear worth US$120 million.

—A joint venture between Thai World Import & Export and Pan Gain Ltd to set up a livestock breeding operation worth 32 million yuan.

—A joint venture between Thai World Import & Export and Chan Brothers (Kunghan) to set up a fruit-juice factory worth US$4 million.

PRC Ties Reviewed Before Visit

BK2508065493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] At the invitation of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai today begins a 10-day official and goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China. The visit—scheduled for 25 August to 3 September—will further strengthen the existing close relations between Thailand and China, with particular objective of expanding cooperation in areas of economics, trade, and investment.

Both countries have exchanged regular visits of high-ranking officials since 1975, when bilateral relations were normalized. The visits have not only promoted the profound fraternal relations between the two peoples but have also led to new steps of cooperation.

On trade ties, Thailand and China concluded a bilateral trade agreement for the first time in March 1976 and formed the joint trade committee in November the same

year. Later, both countries set up a joint committee on economic cooperation in 1985 to forge closer economic ties. The joint committee meets every year. At present, Thailand ranks 11th among China's largest trading partners, while China becomes 9th largest trading partner. Two-ways trade between Thailand and China amounted to 1.3 billion U.S. dollars last year. Thai exports to China came to 424 million U.S. dollars, an increase of 10.5 percent over the previous year. Imports from China totalled 895 million U.S. dollars, an increase of 5.5 percent. Trade balance has been in China's favor. Thailand mainly exports to China rice, raw sugar, natural rubber, tobacco leaf, synthetic textile, chemical, cashew nut, and plastic products. Imports from China include crude oil, soybean, cotton, silk, leather, machinery, electrical appliances, and medicine.

Thailand and China signed an agreement on investment promotion and protection in March 1985 and an accord on the avoidance of double taxation in October 1986. Last year, Thailand invested in 407 projects in China with a total combined investment of 723.4 million U.S. dollars, or 18.8 billion baht. Thai investors mainly invested in such cities as Beijing, Sichuan, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hainan in animal feed production, fast food business, real estate, hotel business, beer production, banking, and car assembling. Thai business people can explore investment opportunities in China in several industries concerning packaging, consumer goods, food products, and construction material. The Charoen Phokkhaphan Group is a Thai largest investor in China. Its investment base is in Shanghai. The company is planning to start several more projects in Shanghai in the future, such as business complex, financial company, tourism, soybean factory, and motorcycle part manufacturing. The Chinese investment in Thailand is still minimal. During 1988 and June this year, Thailand granted promotional privileges to 40 Chinese projects involving an investment of 6.4 billion baht. These projects mainly involve chemical production, gems and jewelry, and machinery production.

Thailand and China have also actively promoted scientific and technical cooperation. Since 1978, both countries have launched a total of 500 projects on scientific and technical cooperation.

The visit by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai to China will provide a good opportunity for both countries to exchange views on expanding future cooperation in various areas of common interest.

Air Marshal Visits Russia on Arms Mission

BK2508022993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Aug 93 p 6

[Text] Royal Thai Air Force Chief-of-Staff Air Marshal Wira Singprasoet was in Moscow last week to discuss the capabilities of Russian arms. The visit is described as unofficial, because the arrangements were made for the air force delegation by Russthai Pte Ltd, a Bangkok company established early this year to act as the agent for Russian military firms aiming to break into the Thai market.

The managing director of Russthai, Kroeksak Sakbodin, was in Moscow in June, where he met the deputy chairman of the State Committee for Military Industry, Gennadiy Yanpolskiy. Air Marshal Wira was shown the MiG-26 air-defence fighter, as well as aerial guns and reconnaissance cameras produced by the Kubinga and Zenit plants.

The possibility for a Russian offer of specially equipped and priced MiG-29 aircraft was discussed early this year, when Thai Ambassador to Russia, Kasit Piromya, visited one of the MiG-29 production facilities in Nizhni Novgorod, and received detailed briefings on its performance in simulated tests against the US-built F-16 currently operated by the Thai Air Force.

The chief designer of the MiG-29 Anatoliy Belosvet, has told the BANGKOK POST that F-16 engines perform less well in tropical conditions. He claims the US aircraft is less manoeuvrable in combat, with a poorer safety record than the MiG-29.

The German Air Force is now operating the F-16 and the MiG-29 in tandem, having taken over the Russian-built aircraft from the former East German air force.

Asian interest in the MiG-29 has grown following the June decision by Malaysia to buy 18 of the aircraft. Indonesia is also considering modernising its US-supplied squadrons, and US lobbying has already begun with senior Indonesian air force officers to exclude the MiG-29 from consideration.

Air Marshal Wira is the second high-ranking Thai commander to visit Russia in less than a month. Army Commander Wimon Wongwanit was in Moscow in July to open talks on possible purchases of military equipment for the armed forces.

Gen Wimon's delegation inspected the Russian 2nd Motorised Rifle division, which is based north of Moscow, and evaluated military engineering equipment including trucks, earth-movers and bridging equipment, whose purchase is being considered.

Cabinet Approves Cut in Movie, Equipment Import Duty

BK2508022393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Aug 93 p B1

[Text] THE Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to cut the import duty on overseas motion pictures from Bt30 to Bt1O per metre. The move is seen as a bid to boost Thailand's bargaining power in unresolved bilateral trade issue talks with the United States, a major exporter of movies. Meanwhile, the Cabinet has also agreed to measures to help the Thai motion picture industry. They include reduced import duties on equipment and films produced abroad.

Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit said the cut on overseas motion pictures' import duty was steeper than that proposed by the Finance Ministry's customs tariff committee, which had suggested the tax be lowered to Bt15 per metre. He said Cabinet members concluded that Bt1O was more acceptable since it would still not affect revenue collection.

As for Thai movie producers, a tax rate of Bt1.5O per metre rather than the Bt15 per metre levied on movies shot overseas was also approved. In addition, taxes on seven pieces of film production equipment were lowered from 15 per cent to five per cent. They include cameras and lenses, film-printing and editing equipment and negatives.

Churin said the govemment will lose with about Bt1O million in annual tax revenue as a result of the lower rate on overseas motion pictures. A Bt40 million revenue loss is anticipated from the cheaper rates applicable to Thai movie producers. However, the minister is optimistic that Thai-US trade relations will be improved because of the tax rate cut, saying that billions of baht of exports were at stake.

He also predicted that the United States could well remove Thailand from the US priority foreign country (PFC) watchlist, with which Thailand and other countries are closely monitored for possible trade retaliation. Thailand might be placed on a less severe watchlist. The government also believes that Thai firms engaged in business with the United States will gain confidence due to Thailand's show of goodwill.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak is said to be planning to telephone US trade officials with details of the latest Thai move. Churin said Thailand will review its tax rates again once there is a conclusion to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) talks of multilateral trade issues. The import tax rate on foreign motion pictures could well be cut to Bt5 per metre according to a deputy-government spokesman.

On pipeline protection for drugs, another unresolved intellectual property rights issue between the United States and Thailand, he said there was no change in the Thai position. Thailand is ready to extend protection to foreign drug patents back to 1986. But the United States is seeking it back until 1983. In addition, Thailand insists that the safety monitoring process should be for five or six years.

Vietnam

End to U.S. Embargo 'Encourage' MIA Search

BK2608083793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0806 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 26 (AFP)—Lifting the U.S. economic embargo could encourage the ordinary Vietnamese whose cooperation is essential in the effort to account for Americans missing from the Vietnam War, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said.

But Cam said that Vietnamese cooperation on the "humanitarian" issue would continue no matter what happens when the embargo comes up for annual renewal on September 14.

"Those who say that a lifting of the embargo will help cooperation are right because it would encourage the population," he told AFP on Wednesday.

Hanoi announced early this month that it would start giving cash rewards to Vietnamese who turned over the remains of U.S. servicemen missing from the war.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has said any steps toward normalization with Hanoi depend on "concrete results" in the effort to account for the 2,248 Americans whose bodies were never found, including more than 90 men believed to possibly have been taken prisoner in Vietnam.

Joint Communique Issued With Cambodia

BK2508140593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Aug 93

["Full text" of joint communique issued 25 August marking the 23-25 August visit to Vietnam by Cambodian Government Cochairmen Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen]

[Text] 1. Accepting the invitation of His Excellency Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the two cochairmen of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC], Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranaridh and His Excellency Hun Sen, paid an official friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 23 to 25 August 1993.

2. During their visit to Vietnam, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranaridh, His Excellency Hun Sen, and their entourage visited Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and residence, economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, and the Hoa Binh Hydroelectricity Project. They were warmly received by the Vietnamese people at those places.

The two co-chairmen were warmly received by His Excellency Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and His Excellency Le Duc Anh, SRV president.

On this occasion, His Excellency Le Duc Anh extended an invitation to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of State of Cambodia, and Samdech Preah Chea Yea [Monique Sihanouk] to pay an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at their convenience. The two cochairmen thanked His Excellency Le Duc Anh and promised that they would convey the invitation to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Preah Chea Yea.

3. The SRV Government delegation, led by His Excellency Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, held official talks with the PNGC delegation led by Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

At the talks, the two sides reported on each other's national situation and exchanged views on the multi-faceted friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries in the future and on international and regional issues of mutual concern.

4. The Vietnamese side welcomes the result of the Cambodian Constitutional Assembly election organized by the United Nations in May 1993 in Cambodia and the formation of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia. It considers these actions to be important steps in developing the cause of national reconciliation in Cambodia.

The Vietnamese side highly values the important role and continuing efforts of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the head of state of Cambodia, in the cause of national reconciliation and in bringing about peace, stability, and happiness for the Cambodian people.

The Vietnamese side welcomes the Samdech Preah's policies to consolidate and develop traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Vietnamese side expresses its belief that under the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian people will successfully build an independent, peaceful, neutral, and prosperous Cambodia.

The Vietnamese side also welcomes the election of Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen as PNGC cochairmen and wishes them success in implementing the PNGC program of action.

5. PNGC Co-Chairmen Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet for having invited them to pay an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This symbolizes the goodwill and desire to consolidate the solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries and the two peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia.

6. The Cambodian side informed the Vietnamese side that under the brilliant leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the head of state of Cambodia and father of the Cambodian people, the national conciliation and the cause of peace, stability, and construction of Cambodia have scored fine initial achievements.

The Cambodian side welcomes the initial achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation effort and expresses its thanks to the Vietnamese Government and people for their active contribution to the peace process in Cambodia and for their strict respect and active implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement on Cambodia signed 23 October 1991.

7. The two sides emphasize the importance of bringing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries to a new level on the basis of the agreements set forth in the 25 January 1992 Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Communique.

8. Along that line, the two sides agree to continue their relations of cooperation that they deem appropriate. The two sides will carry out negotiations to outline cooperation programs on political, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, technological, and tourist issues for the sake of development of their respective countries and in the interests of regional cooperation.

9. The two sides are of the opinion that visit exchanges, especially between high-level leaders of the two countries, will make important contributions to strengthening mutual understanding and confidence, further consolidating and developing the relations of the two countries.

10. The two sides note with satisfaction the trend of increasing cooperation for peace, stability, and development among the countries within and without the region of Southeast Asia, despite the tense situation in some parts of the world.

The two sides confirm their goal of further broadening the relations of friendship and neighborliness and equal and mutual beneficial cooperation to all countries in the region, to contribute toward building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

11. The two sides held that the visit to Vietnam by the two PNGC cochairmen and the agreements reached between the high-level leaders of the two countries are new contributions to consolidating and further developing the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen expressed their profound appreciation for the friendly and honest feelings and warm reception that the Vietnamese Government and people have given to the delegation during its visit. They consider these efforts to be new and vivid evidence of the new stage in the fine Vietnam-Cambodia traditional relationship.

12. On behalf of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen invited His Excellency Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife to pay an official friendship visit to Cambodia. Their invitation was cordially accepted by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. The visit will be scheduled through diplomatic channels.

[Dated] Hanoi 25 August 1993.

[Signed] For the Provisional National Government of Cambodia: CoChairmen Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

For the SRV Government: Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Cambodian Cochairmen Conclude Visit

BK2508121393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] This morning on the third day of their official visit, the representative delegation of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia, led by cochairmen Prince Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen, visited the construction site of the Hoa Binh Hydroelectricity Plant. Minister of Energy Thai Phung Ne accompanied the delegation.

The leading comrades of the plant and the Construction General Corporation at Hoa Binh Hydroelectricity Plant welcomed the delegation and directed the honored Cambodian guests on their visit to the project.

In the afternoon at the Presidential Palace, a ceremony was held for the signing of the Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Communique at the conclusion of the official friendship visit to Vietnam by the representative delegation of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia. The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Vo Van Kiet and the two cochairmen Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen signed the Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Communique. Present at the signing ceremony on the Vietnam side were Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of Foreign Affairs; Comrade Le Xuan Trinh, minister of the Government Office; and some other ministers and deputy ministers.

After the signing ceremony, the farewell ceremony for the representative delegation of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia was solemnly held at the Presidential Palace. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet spoke to the two cochairmen, Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, and other members of the delegation. The prime minister considered the visit a special event marking a new stage in the friendly relations between the two peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia.

His Excellency Norodom Ranariddh thanked the Vietnamese Government and people for the warm welcome given the delegation and confirmed that the visit would contribute to the development of the friendship between the two countries. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife, Comrades Nguyen Manh Cam, Le Xuan Trinh, and other ministers and deputies ministers cordially bade farewell to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, His Excellency Hun Sen, and other members of the representative delegation of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia before they left Hanoi, successfully concluding the official friendship visit to Vietnam.

AFP on Cambodian, SRV Leader Talks [AKP]

BK2508094893 Phnom Penh AKP in English 0413 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP August 25—Cambodia and Vietnam have agreed to set up commissions to discuss border issues and Vietnamese immigration to Cambodia, the two most sensitive areas of their relations, AFP quoted a Cambodian source as saying here Tuesday.

Cambodia's co-premiers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, reached the agreements in principle during talks Monday with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi, the source said.

They also asked Vietnam to reconsider a plan to build bridges over the lower Mekong and Basak Rivers that would block large ships from reaching Phnom Penh, the source said, adding that the issue was likely to be discused by the four-country Mekong Committee.

On Tuesday, the co-premiers met President Le Duc Anh, who, as a two-star, general commanded the 1978 Vietnamese invasion that ousted the Khmer Rouge from power but plunged Cambodia into 13 years of guerrilla war.

Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen are making a three-day visit to Vietnam, their first since forming an interim coalition government on July 1 after U.N.-run elections failed to produce an absolute majority for either of their rival parties. They earlier visited Laos and Thailand.

The border commission, made up of technical experts, would discuss not only the disputes over border demarcation but also issues such as smuggling, which is rampant between the two countries, the Cambodian source said.

Cambodia has called for negotiations based on the restoration of the border mapped out by former colonial power France before 1954, a line that was eroded in Vietnam's favor during its 1979-1989 occupation of Cambodia.

The agreement in principle to form an immigration commission, also expected to be announced in a joint communique at the conclusion of the premiers' visit Wednesday, would represent a temporary compromise on the emotionally charged issue of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia.

Last week, two more ethnic Vietnamese fishermen were slain by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia, adding urgency to Hanoi's call for Phnom Penh and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia to protect them.

While Cambodia's Government has condemned such attacks, it has shied away from making any promises that could trigger a backlash among Cambodians, who harbor deep-seated fears of being swallowed by their larger neighbor. "You know the situation in Cambodia. We can't guarantee anyone's security right now," the Cambodian source commented.

Hanoi also wants the return to Cambodia of some 25,000 ethnic Vietnamese—many of whom were born in Cambodia and have Cambodian identity papers—who fled to Vietnam to escape the Khmer Rouge massacres that have left more than 100 dead this year.

The source said the issue would be studied by the commission, but that Cambodia must first ratify its new constitution next month and draft an immigration law before adopting a policy.

The Vietnamese have been giving red-capet treatment to Hun Sen, and Prince Ranariddh, who led one faction in the anti-Vietnamese resistance coalition headed by his father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, now Cambodia's head of state.

Prince Ranariddh, who is tipped to become Cambodia's next prime minister, has generally been treated as the senior of the two, with Vietnam's leaders seating him at their right and addressing him first.

A dispute over protocol marred the visit, however, with the Cambodian delegation canceling a planned trip to Ho Chi Minh City after Vietnam refused to supply them with a private plane, according to an informed source. Hanoi said it was standard practice for foreign dignitaries to bring their own planes or travel commercially.

Instead, the delegation will visit the Hoa Binh dam northwest of Hanoi on Wednesday morning before signing the joint communique and leaving for home, Vietnamese officials said.

Minister Views Diplomatic Offensive, Leaders' Trips

BK2608084493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 26 (AFP)—Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh will make an official visit to China in November that Hanoi hopes will give new impetus to the slow process of resolving the two countries' lingering disputes, Vietnam's foreign minister said.

Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi will meanwhile visit Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand in the first half of October to widen Vietnam's relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Nguyen Manh Cam said in an interview with AFP.

Anh's scheduled visit comes two years after China and Vietnam normalized diplomatic relations, years that have produced little progress on territorial disputes ranging from their land border to far-flung islets of the South China Sea.

The disputes have spawned a range of secondary problems, from uncontrolled trading across the Sino-Vietnamese borders to the Chinese seizure in international waters of Vietnamese merchant ships accused of smuggling.

If anyone can break the deadlock, it is Anh, the second-ranking member of Vietnam's Communist Party Politburo said to have responsibility for defense and foreign affairs.

In July 1991, before he became president, the retired general made a secret trip to China that unblocked the stalled Cambodian peace negotiations and thus opened the way for Sino-Vietnamese normalization four months later.

"It's a high-ranking visit to consolidate relations between Vietnam and China, but also to give directives to resolve the lingering problems," Cam said in the interview Wednesday. "These problems will take a lot of time to resolve."

The two countries split in 1979, after Vietnam invaded Cambodia to oust the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge and triggered a retaliatory attack on northern Vietnam by the Chinese army.

Fourteen years later, the competing claims to the Spratly and Paracel islands in the South China Sea have replaced Cambodia as the leading source of friction between the neighbors.

Beijing and Hanoi pledged when they normalized relations to settle all disputes through peaceful negotiations, but Vietnam has expressed concern over reports of a Chinese airbase in the Paracels. "If each party does not exercise restraint, it could lead to outcomes we cannot predict," Cam said about the maritime disputes.

Vietnam is meanwhile using economic means to reinforce its claim to the Spratlys, announcing Thursday tax breaks for fishermen operating out of a new fishing port it intends to build there.

Economic cooperation and Vietnam's eventual integration into ASEAN are expected to be the key topics during Muoi's trip to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, Cam said.

The party chief will be reinforcing the dramatic rapprochement with ASEAN that began with the signing of the Cambodian peace treaty in October 1991 and was crowned by the organization's July 1992 decision to grant Vietnam observer status in the regional grouping. In between, Kiet and Cam visited all six ASEAN countries, including Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"The sooner the better," Cam replied when asked when Vietnam would like to acheive full membership in the organization, which was originally formed as a bullwark against the spread of communism in Asia but evolved into a potent economic grouping.

The newest diplomatic offensive demonstrates that despite Vietnam's declared desire for good relations with all countries, its priorities lie—logically enough—in building ties with its Asian neighbors, rapidly emerging as economic powers in their own right.

Antigovernment Suspects Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

BK2508152293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] A Vietnamese Radio correspondent based in Ho Chi Minh City reports that the Supreme People's Court found Tran Tu and his accomplices guilty of committing activities to overthrow the Vietnamese people's government and of illegal weapons trading in a preliminary hearing and final trial in Ho Chi Minh City. The court sentenced Tran Tu, mastermind of the antigovernment organization; Nguyen Van Muong; and Do Huong to life imprisonment. The other accomplices received prison terms from three years to 20 years. Some of them, after serving their term, will not be allowed to reside in Vietnam or they must be on parole.

The verdict was announced on the afternoon of 25 August, which was the last day of the trial of the 14 people accused of antigovernment activities and illegal explosives trading.

'Subversive Group' Sentenced

BK2608070993 Hanoi VNA in English 0649 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 26—The Supreme People's Court met in first and also final instance in Ho Chi Minh [HCM] City from August 23 to 25 to try a subversive group on three counts attempt to overthrow the people's administration, illegal trading of explosives and failure to report a crime.

The 14 defendants are mostly overseas Vietnamese belonging to different counter-revolutionary groups who had banded up together into the so called Vietnam Revolutionary Interparty. They planned to start a campaign of sabotage in HCM City and other cities in southern Vietnam on March, 1993 target primarily at several major public places including Ben Thanh and An Dong markets, a hotel, a bridge, the Vung Tau gasoline depot, etc. The court ruled that this was a crime of particular seriousness which violated national security.

It passed the life sentence on the three ringleaders, namely Tran Tu, Nguyen Van Muon and Do Huon, and sentenced eight others to prison terms ranging from six to twenty years. Two others received ten and twelve years for illegal trading of explosives and one was given three years in prison for failing to report criminal acts.

Foreign Minister Urges Restraint on Spratlys

BK2608055893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 26 (AFP)—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam has urged regional countries to show restraint in their dispute over the Spratly Islands. "If each party does not exercise restraint, it could lead to outcomes we cannot predict," Cam said in an interview Wednesday with AFP.

Cam said China's construction of an airbase in the Paracel Islands, another disputed chain in the South China Sea, and Taiwan's plans to build one in the Spratlys, would "cause worries" in the region.

On the other hand, "if all the parties agree to respect the principles declared during the (1992) ASEAN ministerial conference in Manila—not to resort to force—then we can solve this through peaceful negotiations," he said.

The weekly Far Eastern Economic Review published Thursday in Hong Kong said China has been holding large-scale combined military manouevres in the South China Sea involving units responsible for operations in the two archipelagos.

In addition to China and Vietnam, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines claim certain of the Spratly Islands. Taiwan holds the largest one.

Though largely barren, the more than 90 islands, islets, shoals and reefs of the far-flung Spratly chain straddle shipping lanes and possibly mineral wealth, giving them both strategic and economic value.

The Vietnamese press Thursday announced tax breaks for fisheries businesses setting up in the Spratlys, where Hanoi recently revealed plans to build a fishing port on one of the more than 20 islets it occupies.

Marine-products ventures will be exempt from resources tax, turnover tax and income tax during their first three years of operation, while export tax payments can instead be reinvested, the Lao Dong newspaper said.

Government Protests Kompong Chnang Killings

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[Text] Hanoi VNA August 24—The Vietnamese Embassy in Cambodia today sent a note to the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC), the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Cambodian Interim National Government condemning the killings of Vietnamese residents in Kompong Chnang on August 18, 1993.

The note quotes Mr Eric Falt, spokesman for the UN peacekeepers in Cambodia as saying on Aug. 23 that at 16:00 on Aug. 8 four Vietnamese fishermen who were fishing on the Tonle Sap were taken by force at gunpoint by a group of fighters believed the Khmer Rouge to Thmai Chheutal village, Kompong Chnang province. After 24 hours of captive one men was released, three others were hit cruelly, two of them were thrown in the water and shot at, and the last one was missing.

According to initial UN investigations, the latest killings were the work of the same fighters who raised Chhnouk Tru village, Kompong Chnang, in early August, killing two people and abducting eight children.

The Vietnamese Embassy in Cambodia strongly condemns the Khmer Rouge's cruel killings of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia and urgently calls on SNC, UNTAC and the Cambodian Interim National Government to take drastic and effctive measures to investigate, punish and stop the above-said cruel acts, and ensure the Vietnamese residents to have a peaceful life and legitimate benefits conforming to the spirit of the Paris agreement and international documents on human rights. Vietnam earnestly calls on the international community to vehemently condemn the Khmer Rouge's acts of ethnic discrimination and violations of human rights, and force them to abide by the provisions set out in the international convention on human rights.